

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 225

BY REPRESENTATIVE BOYD

DISTRICTS/CRIME PREVENT: Creates the Tall Timbers Crime Prevention and Improvement District in New Orleans

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 33:9091.28, relative to Orleans Parish; to create the Tall Timbers Crime  
3 Prevention and Improvement District; to provide relative to the boundaries, purpose,  
4 governance, and powers and duties of the district; to provide relative to district  
5 funding; to authorize the city, subject to voter approval, to impose and collect a  
6 parcel fee for the district; and to provide for related matters.

7 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published  
8 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of  
9 Louisiana.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 33:9091.28 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §9091.28. Tall Timbers Crime Prevention and Improvement District

13 A. Creation. There is hereby created within the parish of Orleans, as more  
14 specifically provided in Subsection B of this Section, a body politic and corporate  
15 known as the Tall Timbers Crime Prevention and Improvement District, referred to  
16 in this Section as the "district". The district is a political subdivision of the state as  
17 defined in the Constitution of Louisiana.

18 B. Boundaries. The district is comprised of all lots within Sections 2 through  
19 10 of the Tall Timbers Subdivision, which lots front on or abut any of the streets  
20 within the Subdivision, namely: Tall Oaks Drive, Inwood Avenue, South Inwood

1 Avenue, Pin Oak Avenue, South Pin Oak Avenue, Post Oak Avenue, South Post Oak  
2 Avenue, White Oak Avenue, North Teak Avenue, Red Oak Drive, Red Oak Court,  
3 Tall Pines Drive, Mimosa Drive, Mimosa Court, Peach Tree Court, Silver Maple  
4 Court, or Red Cypress Drive.

5 C. Purpose. The district is established for the primary objects and purposes  
6 of aiding in crime prevention for district residents and their property and serving the  
7 needs of residents of the district by funding beautification and other activities and  
8 improvements for the overall betterment of the district and the quality of life of its  
9 residents.

10 D. Governance. (1) The district shall be managed by a nine-member board  
11 of commissioners, referred to in this Section as the "board". The board shall be  
12 composed of the president and treasurer of the Tall Timbers Owners Association and  
13 seven other members appointed by the board of the association.

14 (2) All members of the board shall be residents of the district and members  
15 in good standing of the Tall Timbers Owners Association.

16 (3) Appointed board members shall serve four-year terms except that the Tall  
17 Timbers Owners Association may specify a shorter initial term when making its  
18 initial appointments.

19 (4) The board shall elect from its members a chairman, a vice chairman, a  
20 secretary, a treasurer, and other officers as it deems necessary. The duties of the  
21 officers shall be fixed by the bylaws adopted by the board.

22 (5) The secretary or the treasurer of the board shall maintain the minute  
23 books and archives of the district. The monies, funds, and accounts of the district  
24 shall be in the official custody of the board.

25 (6) The board may adopt rules and regulations for conducting its business  
26 affairs. Rules and regulations of the board relative to the notice and conduct of  
27 meetings shall conform to applicable law, including laws relative to open meetings.  
28 The board shall hold regular meetings and may hold special meetings at times and  
29 places within the district as prescribed in the bylaws.

1           (7) A majority of the members of the board constitutes a quorum for the  
2           transaction of business. The board shall keep minutes of all meetings and shall make  
3           them available through the secretary of the board to residents of the district.

4           (8) The members of the board shall serve without compensation but shall be  
5           reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses directly related to the governance  
6           of the district.

7           (9) Each member of the board has one vote. The vote of a majority of the  
8           members of the board present and voting, a quorum being present, is required to  
9           decide any question upon which the board takes action.

10           E. Powers and duties. The district, acting through its board, shall have the  
11           following powers and duties:

12           (1) To sue and be sued.

13           (2) To adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.

14           (3) To receive and expend funds collected pursuant to Subsections F and G  
15           of this Section and in accordance with a budget adopted as provided by Subsection  
16           H of this Section.

17           (4) To enter into contracts with individuals or entities, private or public.

18           (5) To provide or enhance security patrols in the district, to provide for  
19           improved lighting, signage, or matters relating to the security and beautification of  
20           the district.

21           (6) To enter into contracts and agreements for security, improvement, or  
22           betterment of the district, including with one or more other districts for the joint  
23           security, improvement, or betterment of all participating districts.

24           (7) To provide for services and make expenditures as the board deems proper  
25           for the upkeep and beautification of the district and the quality of life of its residents.

26           (8) To acquire or lease items and supplies that the board deems instrumental  
27           to achieving the purposes of the district.

28           (9) To procure and maintain liability insurance against any liability of the  
29           district and against any personal or legal liability of a board member that may be

1 asserted or incurred based upon his service as a member of the board or that may  
2 arise as a result of his actions taken within the scope and discharge of his duties as  
3 a member of the board.

4 (10) To perform or have performed any other function or activity necessary  
5 or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the district or for the overall betterment  
6 of the district.

7 F. Parcel fee. The governing authority of the city of New Orleans may  
8 impose and collect a parcel fee within the district subject to and in accordance with  
9 the provisions of this Subsection:

10 (1)(a) The amount of the fee shall be as requested by duly adopted resolution  
11 of the board. The initial fee shall not exceed two hundred eighty dollars per year per  
12 parcel.

13 (b) The board may increase or decrease the fee one time during each  
14 subsequent calendar year not to exceed ten percent of the fee imposed during the  
15 previous calendar year. The fee shall not exceed three hundred sixty dollars per  
16 parcel per year.

17 (2)(a) The fee shall be imposed on each parcel located within the district.

18 (b) For purposes of this Section, "parcel" means a lot, a subdivided portion  
19 of ground, or an individual tract.

20 (c) The owner of each parcel is responsible for payment of the fee.

21 (3)(a) The fee shall be imposed only after the question of its imposition has  
22 been approved by a majority of the registered voters of the district who vote on the  
23 proposition at an election held for that purpose in accordance with the Louisiana  
24 Election Code.

25 (b) The initial term for the imposition of the parcel fee is five years, but the  
26 fee may be renewed if approved by a majority of the registered voters of the district  
27 voting on the proposition at an election as provided in Subparagraph (a) of this  
28 Paragraph. Any election to authorize the renewal of the fee shall be held for that  
29 purpose in accordance with the Louisiana Election Code. If the fee is renewed, the

1 term of the imposition of the fee shall be as provided in the proposition authorizing  
2 such renewal, not to exceed five years.

3 (4) The fee shall be collected at the same time and in the same manner as  
4 city ad valorem taxes.

5 (5) Any parcel fee which is unpaid shall be added to the tax rolls of the city  
6 and shall be enforced with the same authority and subject to the same penalties and  
7 procedures as unpaid ad valorem taxes.

8 (6)(a) The city of New Orleans shall remit to the district all amounts  
9 collected not more than sixty days after collection.

10 (b) The district shall use the proceeds of the fee solely and exclusively for  
11 the purposes and benefit of the district; however, the city may retain one percent of  
12 the amount collected as a collection fee.

13 G. Additional contributions. The district may solicit and accept additional  
14 voluntary contributions and grants to further the purposes of the district.

15 H. Budget. (1) The board of commissioners shall adopt an annual budget  
16 in accordance with the Local Government Budget Act, R.S. 39:1301 et seq.

17 (2) The district shall be subject to audit by the legislative auditor pursuant  
18 to R.S. 24:513.

19 I. Miscellaneous provisions. (1) It is the purpose and intent of this Section  
20 that any additional security patrols, public or private, or any other security or other  
21 services or betterments provided by the district shall be supplemental to and not be  
22 in lieu of personnel and services to be provided in the district by the state or the city  
23 of New Orleans or their departments or agencies or by other political subdivisions.

24 (2) If the district ceases to exist, the board shall transmit all district funds to  
25 the city of New Orleans, and such funds, together with any other funds collected by  
26 the city of New Orleans pursuant to this Section, shall be maintained in a separate  
27 account by the city and shall be used only to promote, encourage, and enhance the  
28 security of the area included in the district.

1           J. Indemnification and exculpation. (1) The district shall indemnify its  
2           officers and board members to the fullest extent permitted by R.S. 12:227, as fully  
3           as if the district were a nonprofit corporation governed thereby, and as provided in  
4           the district's bylaws.

5           (2) No board member or officer of the district is liable to the district or to  
6           any individual who resides, owns property, visits, or otherwise conducts business in  
7           the district for monetary damages for breach of his duties as a board member or  
8           officer; however the foregoing provision does not eliminate or limit the liability of  
9           a board member or officer for any of the following:

10           (a) Acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional  
11           misconduct or a knowing violation of law.

12           (b) Any transaction from which he derived an improper personal benefit.

13           (3) To the fullest extent permitted by R.S. 9:2792 et seq., including R.S.  
14           9:2792.1 through 2792.9, a person serving the district as a board member or officer  
15           shall not be held individually liable for any act or omission arising out of the  
16           performance of his duties.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 225 Original

2024 Regular Session

Boyd

**Abstract:** Creates the Tall Timbers Crime Prevention and Improvement District in Orleans Parish.

Proposed law creates the Tall Timbers Crime Prevention and Improvement District in Orleans Parish for the purpose of aiding in crime prevention for district residents and their property and serving the needs of residents of the district by funding beautification and other activities and improvements for the overall betterment of the district and the quality of life of its residents. Provides for district boundaries. Provides that the district shall be governed by a nine-member board of commissioners composed of the president and treasurer of the Tall Timbers Owners Assoc. and seven other members appointed by the board of the association. Requires that board members be residents of the district and members in good standing of the Tall Timbers Owners Assoc.

Proposed law provides for the powers and duties of the district.

Proposed law authorizes the governing authority of New Orleans, subject to voter approval, to impose and collect a parcel fee within the district. Provides that the initial amount of the parcel fee shall not exceed \$280 per year per parcel but authorizes the board to increase or decrease the fee by 10% one time each year. Provides that the fee shall not exceed \$360 per parcel per year. Provides that the initial term for the imposition of the parcel fee is five years but authorizes renewal, subject to voter approval, for terms not to exceed five years.

Proposed law requires that the fee be collected in the same manner and at the same time as ad valorem taxes. Authorizes the city to retain 1% of the amount collected.

Proposed law requires the district's board to adopt an annual budget in accordance with present law (R.S. 39:1301 et seq.) and provides that the district shall be subject to audit by the legislative auditor.

Proposed law provides that it is the purpose and intent of proposed law that the additional law enforcement personnel and services provided for through the fees authorized by proposed law shall be supplemental to, and not in lieu of, personnel and services provided in the district by the state or the city. Further provides that if the district ceases to exist, funds of the district shall be transmitted to the city of New Orleans, and such funds, together with other funds collected pursuant to proposed law, shall be maintained in a separate account and shall be used only to promote, encourage, and enhance the security of the area included in the district.

(Adds R.S. 33:9091.28)