

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 846 (Substitute for House Bill No. 202 by Representative Ortego)

BY REPRESENTATIVE ORTEGO

WATERWAYS: Provides relative to the Lafayette Parish Bayou Vermilion District

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 33:9201, 9202(introductory paragraph), and 9203(A) and to  
3 enact R.S. 33:9206(11), relative to the Lafayette Parish Bayou Vermilion District;  
4 to authorize the district to perform public works on certain bayous; to provide  
5 relative to the name of the district; to provide relative to access to certain water  
6 bodies; 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. 33:9201, 9202(introductory paragraph), and 9203(A) are hereby  
12 amended and reenacted and R.S. 33:9206(11) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 CHAPTER 32. ~~LAFAYETTE PARISH BAYOU~~  
14 VERMILION DISTRICT

15 §9201. Creation of district; limits and jurisdiction

16 The ~~Lafayette Parish~~ Bayou Vermilion District, hereafter referred to in this  
17 Chapter as the district, is hereby created as a political subdivision of the state of  
18 Louisiana. The territorial limits of the district shall be coterminous with the  
19 boundaries of the parish of Lafayette and jurisdiction of its authority shall extend  
20 throughout the parish of Lafayette. For the purposes of this Chapter, any and all

1 references to Bayou Vermilion shall include that body of water known as either  
2 Bayou Vermilion or Vermilion River within the boundaries of Lafayette Parish,  
3 Louisiana.

4 §9202. Purposes

5 The ~~Lafayette Parish Bayou Vermilion District, hereinafter referred to as "the~~  
6 ~~district"~~ district, is created for the following purposes:

7 \* \* \*

8 §9203. Board of Commissioners; qualification of members; appointment; terms;  
9 vacancies; removal of members

10 A. The governing authority of the ~~Lafayette Parish Bayou Vermilion District~~  
11 district shall be a board of commissioners which is hereby created and which is  
12 hereinafter referred to as "the board". The board shall be composed of nine voting  
13 members who shall be citizens of the United States residing within the limits of the  
14 district during their term of office. The members of the board shall serve without  
15 compensation.

16 \* \* \*

17 §9206. General powers and duties of the board

18 In addition to the power and authority granted elsewhere in this Chapter, the  
19 board shall have all powers necessary and convenient for carrying out the purposes  
20 of the district enumerated in R.S. 33:9202 including the following:

21 \* \* \*

22 (11) To undertake, as otherwise provided by Paragraph (10) of this Section,  
23 any work that it deems necessary and proper to improve water quality and to remove  
24 obstructions to natural water flow in Bayou Vermilion within Lafayette Parish,  
25 Bayou Carencro, and Evangeline Canal. No political subdivision of the state shall  
26 restrict public access to Evangeline Canal unless the restriction is approved by the  
27 House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee  
28 on Natural Resources.

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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 846 Original

2015 Regular Session

Ortego

**Abstract:** Authorizes the Lafayette Parish Bayou Vermilion District to perform public works on specified bayous and provides relative to restrictions on access to Evangeline Canal.

Present law creates the Lafayette Parish Bayou Vermilion District to improve water quality and beautify Bayou Vermilion to promote the bayou as a recreational and cultural asset and to create and control an economic development adjacent to the bayou. Provides that the jurisdiction of the district is coterminous with Lafayette Parish. Provides for governance and powers and duties of the district. Proposed law changes the name of the district to the Bayou Vermilion District.

Present law authorizes the district to make or construct any works of public improvement within the geographic limits of the district that may be necessary or useful for the business of the board by purchasing machinery or materials and equipment for performing such work and supervising the work or by making and constructing such works through contracts with others, all subject to laws applicable to public works contracts.

Proposed law authorizes the district to undertake, as otherwise provided in present law, any work that it deems necessary and proper to improve water quality and flow in Bayou Vermilion within Lafayette Parish, Bayou Carencro, and Evangeline Canal. Prohibits any political subdivision from restricting public access to Evangeline Canal unless the restriction is approved by the legislative natural resources committees.

(Amends R.S. 33:9201, 9202(intro. para.), and 9203(A); Adds R.S. 33:9206(11))