

SENATE BILL NO. 282

BY SENATOR BROWN

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 38:326.3 and 326.4, relative to special districts; to provide relative to
3 combined police authority within and by and between the Port of South Louisiana,
4 the Lafourche Basin Levee District, and the Pontchartrain Levee District; to provide
5 relative to the jurisdiction, personnel, equipment, costs, and administrative
6 responsibilities for such authority; to provide for authorization to hire positions; to
7 provide for limitations for budget restraints; to provide for an executive director and
8 an assistant executive director of the Lafourche Basin Levee District; and to provide
9 for related matters.

10 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 38:326.3 and 326.4 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 **§326.3. Combined police authority; jurisdiction; administrative**
14 **responsibilities; personnel, equipment, and expenses**

15 **A. In addition to the authority, restrictions, requirements, and other**
16 **provisions of R.S. 38:326 and 326.1, and notwithstanding any other provision**
17 **of law to the contrary, the Port of South Louisiana, the Lafourche Basin Levee**
18 **District, and the Pontchartrain Levee District may coordinate and cooperate**
19 **jointly with each other to maintain order and to exercise general police power**
20 **within the areas of such port and districts and upon their levees.**

21 **B. The executive directors of the port and the districts may enter into a**
22 **cooperative endeavor agreement to authorize the exercise of combined police**
23 **protection within the areas of the port and districts, and to provide for the**
24 **employment of officers and other personnel, equipment, and administrative**
25 **services, necessary and useful to provide for and share the costs and expenses**
26 **associated with such police protection. The cooperative endeavor agreement**
27 **shall provide that title to equipment used pursuant to the agreement which is**

1 owned by the port or a district shall remain with the port or district.

2 C. Each person employed as a police officer shall, at a minimum, be
3 commissioned as a peace officer by the Department of Public Safety and
4 Corrections. Such police officers shall have the right to exercise the power of
5 arrest as peace officers, according to law, within the combined jurisdictions and
6 boundaries of the port and the districts.

7 D.(1) The governing authority of each entity designated in Subsection A
8 of this Section that is a party to a cooperative endeavor agreement described in
9 Subsection B of this Section shall appoint two members, respectively, to serve
10 as members of a law enforcement coordinating and oversight committee.

11 (2) At the initial meeting, the committee shall elect a president to serve
12 as presiding officer. The presiding officer shall not cast a vote except in the case
13 of a tie vote.

14 (3) The committee may employ a chief law enforcement officer, subject
15 to applicable civil service regulations. However, any applicant with at least
16 twenty years of experience as a commissioned law enforcement officer who
17 meets all of the requirements set forth in Subsection C of this Section shall be
18 eligible for appointment.

19 (4) The chief law enforcement officer shall:

20 (a) Have the right to exercise the authority granted to police officers in
21 Subsection C of this Section.

22 (b) Supervise and direct the administration and operation of the
23 combined police protection authorized by the cooperative endeavor agreement.

24 All law enforcement personnel shall be subordinate to the chief.

25 (c) Have general responsibility for law enforcement and be charged with
26 the enforcement of all applicable laws and ordinances within the areas of the
27 port and districts.

28 E. Neither the Port of South Louisiana, the Lafourche Basin Levee
29 District, or the Pontchartrain Levee District shall authorize any additional
30 funding for a position beyond the limits of its budget.

1 §326.4. Lafourche Basin Levee District; executive director; assistant executive
 2 director; duties

3 A. The positions of executive director and assistant executive director
 4 of the board of commissioners of the Lafourche Basin Levee District are hereby
 5 created. The executive director and assistant executive director shall be
 6 appointed by the board. The executive director, on behalf of and as authorized
 7 or directed by the board, shall administer the affairs of the district. The
 8 assistant executive director shall assist the executive director in all of his
 9 functions and duties as deemed necessary by the executive director.

10 B. The positions of executive director and assistant executive director
 11 shall be filled by the board before February 1, 2015, if not currently filled by
 12 administrative rule of the board.

13 C. Neither the executive director nor the assistant executive director
 14 shall be a member of the board. The executive director and assistant executive
 15 director shall each be a full-time unclassified employee of the board who shall
 16 be paid compensation in an amount to be determined by the board which shall
 17 be comparable to like positions with levee districts throughout the state.

 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

 GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____