SENATE BILL NO. 30

BY SENATOR WARD

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Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

2	To amend and reenact R.S. 34:1221(A), 1223(A), and 1224(A) and to repeal Chapter 29 of
3	Title 34 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 34:2451
4	through 2458, relative to ports, harbors, and terminal districts; to provide relative to
5	the Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission; to provide for representation of Pointe
6	Coupee Parish on the commission; to add the parish of Pointe Coupee to the
7	territorial limits and jurisdiction of the Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission; to
8	abolish the Pointe Coupee Port, Harbor, and Terminal District; to abolish the Pointe
9	Coupee Port Commission; to provide relative to bond obligations of the commission;
10	and to provide for related matters.
11	Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.
12	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
13	Section 1. R.S. 34:1221(A), 1223(A), and 1224(A) are hereby amended and
14	reenacted to read as follows:
15	§1221. Creation of Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission; members
16	A. There is hereby created a commission to be known as the Greater Baton
17	Rouge Port Commission which shall be composed of fifteen seventeen members

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appointed by the governor who shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. Members

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2	shall be appointed as follows:	
3	(1) Three commissioners shall be appointed by the governor from a panel of	
4	six names submitted by the legislative delegation of the parish of West Baton Rouge.	
5	(2) Six commissioners shall be appointed by the governor from a panel of	
6	eighteen names submitted by the East Baton Rouge Parish legislative delegation.	
7	(3) Two commissioners shall be appointed by the governor from a panel of	
8	six names submitted by the legislative delegation of the parish of Iberville.	
9	(4) Two commissioners shall be appointed by the governor from a panel of	
10	six names submitted by the legislative delegation of the parish of Ascension.	
11	(5) Two commissioners shall be appointed by the governor from a panel	
12	of six names submitted by the legislative delegation of the parish of Pointe	
13	Coupee.	
14	(6) Two commissioners shall be appointed by the governor from a panel of	
15	six names submitted by Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Inc. Of the six names	
16	submitted, three shall reside on the east side of the Mississippi River in Ascension,	
17	East Baton Rouge, or Iberville Parishes and three shall reside on the west side of the	
18	Mississippi River in Ascension, Iberville, or West Baton Rouge Parishes and the	
19	governor shall appoint one of the nominees from the east side and one from the west	
20	side of the Mississippi River.	
21	* * *	
22	§1223. Rights and powers of the board	
23	A. The commission shall exercise the powers herein conferred upon it within	
24	the port area consisting of the parishes of East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge,	
25	Iberville, and Ascension, and Pointe Coupee as the boundaries and limits are	
26	presently fixed by law, except the industrial areas created in the parish of East Baton	
27	Rouge by the provisions of Section 1.08(b) of the Plan of Government for the parish	
28	of East Baton Rouge and the city of Baton Rouge.	
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30	§1224. Authority for issuance of bonds; ad valorem tax	

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A. The commission, with the approval of the State Bond Commission, is authorized to incur debt for its lawful purposes and to issue in its name, negotiable bonds or notes therefor, and to pledge, for the payment of the principal and interest of such negotiable bonds or notes, the revenues derived from the operation of properties and facilities maintained and operated by it, or received by the commission from other sources; however, the amount of such bonds and notes outstanding at any one time shall not exceed one hundred million dollars. Such bonds, when authorized to be issued, shall constitute, first, a general obligation of the commission, and secondly, the full faith and credit of the parish of East Baton Rouge, the parish of West Baton Rouge, the parish of Iberville, and thirdly, the state of Louisiana, and shall be and are hereby pledged. The full faith and credit of the parish of Ascension is hereby irrevocably pledged on a parity with that of the parishes of East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, and Iberville in respect to the Commission's commission's bonds, notes, and obligations presently outstanding, as well as to all bonds, notes, and obligations hereafter authorized, sold, and incurred by the Commission commission. The full faith and credit of the parish of Pointe Coupee is hereby irrevocably pledged on a parity with that of the parishes of East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Iberville, and Ascension in respect to the commission's bonds, notes, and obligations presently outstanding, as well as to all bonds, notes, and obligations hereafter authorized, sold, and incurred by the **commission.** In addition to the pledge of revenues to secure said bonds and notes, the commission may further secure their payment by a conventional mortgage upon any or all of the properties constructed or acquired, or to be constructed and acquired by it. The commission is further authorized to receive, by gift, grant, donation, or otherwise any sum of money, aid or assistance from the United States, the state of Louisiana, or any political subdivision thereof, and unless otherwise provided by the terms of such gift, grant, or donation, in its discretion, to pledge all or any part of such monies for the further securing of the payment of the principal and interest of its bonds or notes.

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Section 2. The expansion of the boundaries of the Port of Greater Baton Rouge to include the jurisdictional boundaries of Pointe Coupee Parish is backed by the full faith and credit of the state, and to recognize the existing authority of and functions performed by the established ports and harbors of Louisiana established pursuant to Article 14, Section 31 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1921, and others established by specific constitutional provision, it is hereby recognized that the legislature may consolidate or abolish any such commission or district or diminish, reduce, or withdraw from any such commission or district any of its powers and functions and affect the structure and organization, distribution, and redistribution of the powers and functions of any such commission or district, including additions to or reductions of its territorial jurisdiction, only by law enacted by the favorable vote of two-thirds of the elected members of each house pursuant to Article 6, Section 43 of the Louisiana Constitution. Further, on the effective date of this Act, all existing assets, debts, obligations, and contracts of the Pointe Coupee Port, Harbor and Terminal District and the Pointe Coupee Port Commission are given full force and effect and are hereby transferred to the Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission and the Port of Greater Baton Rouge.

Section 3. R.S. 34:2451 through 2458 are hereby repealed.

Section 4. The terms of the members of the Pointe Coupee Port Commission in office on or after twelve o'clock noon April 8, 2019, shall terminate on December 31, 2019.

Section 5. In the event future legislation is filed, and passed, such that the Parish of Pointe Coupee, is removed from the jurisdiction of the Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission, any and all assets, liabilities, and contracts conveyed by this legislation, shall be transferred to the Parish of Pointe Coupee's governing authority. In the event the assets conveyed by this legislation are conveyed to the Parish of Pointe Coupee's governing authority, the Port of Greater Baton Rouge shall be reimbursed and compensated for the enhanced value of said property which resulted from its efforts since such assets were conveyed to the Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission. In the event the Parish of Pointe Coupee is removed from the jurisdiction of the Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission, the two appointees created by this legislation shall cease to exist and shall no longer serve as

1 members of the Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission.
2 Section 6. This Act will become effective on January 1, 2020.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

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APPROVED: _____