

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 365 (SB 518)

2020 Regular Session

Hewitt

Prior law created, by special uncodified acts of the legislature, the two hospital service districts in St. Tammany Parish, termed the St. Tammany Parish Hospital Service District No. 1 and the St. Tammany Parish Hospital Service District No. 2, as the successors to the St. Tammany Parish Hospital Service District.

New law incorporates the provisions of the uncodified acts relating to the St. Tammany Parish Hospital Service District No. 2 in Title 46 of the LRS.

Prior law provided that St. Tammany Parish Hospital Service District No. 1 shall be comprised of all territory within Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10 of the parish and shall own and operate the St. Tammany Parish Hospital. St. Tammany Parish Hospital Service District No. 2 shall be comprised of all territory within Wards 6, 7, 8, and 9 of the parish and shall own and operate the Slidell Memorial Hospital.

New law retains prior law.

Prior law provided for an advisory board composed of at least one resident of each of Wards 6, 7, 8, and 9 of St. Tammany parish.

New law eliminates prior law.

New law allows the board to appoint a former member of the board as a commissioner emeritus who may not serve longer than one year and is a nonvoting member to provide historical perspective to the board.

New law provides that the nominating committee shall attempt to identify whether any potential nominee has a conflict of interest that would preclude his or her participation as a member of the board under the Code of Governmental Ethics.

New law provides that the nominating committee must make every reasonable effort to include in its nominations a business executive with at least an MBA or equivalent degree and five years of experience in operating a large business corporation or large nonprofit corporation.

New law provides that for board vacancies expected due to term limits, the appointing authority shall conduct their meetings and fulfill their duties by December 15 of each year in order that each appointee may have six months to observe and orient to the board prior to taking their office on July first of the following year. Orienting appointees will be compensated a per diem rate and reasonable expenses for attending meetings or education sessions of the board prior to taking office.

New law provides that board members must attend and complete all education courses and seminars made available or assigned to the board by the hospital, including but not limited to state ethics laws, HIPAA, and preventing sexual harassment and fraud and abuse.

New law provides that notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, the board may annually appoint a former member of the board to serve as a nonvoting "commissioner emeritus" to advise and provide historical perspective to the board when requested by the chairman. Such person will be paid a per diem equal to that paid to other board members for attendance at the meeting together with reasonable expenses to attend any event attended by the board of commissioners. The "commissioner emeritus" may not serve longer than one year.

Prior law provided that the chairman of the board may receive per diem for 10 meetings per month. In the case of an emergency, the chairman may receive per diem for more than 10 meetings per month.

New law maintains prior law and includes other officers. Furthermore, new law provides that telephone or video conferences for educational or managerial purposes may be considered by the chairman of the board to be a meeting for which compensation may be paid.

Prior law required the nominating committee to make every reasonable effort to include in its nominations at least one person from each of the following categories: a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, a certified public accountant, a person with financial experience in commercial and board work, an insurance executive, and a health professional.

New law retains prior law and includes a business executive with at least an MBA or equivalent degree and five years of experience in operating a large business corporation or large nonprofit corporation.

Prior law provided for the board to appoint and enter into an employment contract with a chief executive officer of the hospital.

New law retains prior law and clarifies that the board shall also select the chief executive officer.

Prior law provides that the chief executive officer will establish positions of employment and to appoint and employ personnel necessary for the operation of the health care facility or facilities under his jurisdiction; to establish rates of pay and employee benefits; to abolish positions; and to transfer, promote, demote, and otherwise alter the status of employees of the facility or facilities.

New law retains prior law but also adds the establishment of employee benefits to the list of items to be established by the chief executive officer.

Effective upon signature of the governor (June 12, 2020).

(Adds R.S. 46:1098.1-1098.18)