

II. CHARTER SCOPE

Article VI, Section 11.1 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana as added by Act 1958, No. 549, adopted November 4, 1958, provides for the creation of mosquito abatement districts as follows:

"11.1 Mosquito Abatement Districts"

"Section 11.1 The police jury or other governing authority of any parish may by ordinance create mosquito abatement districts composed of any part of all of the territory lying wholly within a parish, which districts shall be political and legal subdivisions of the State of Louisiana, with full power to sue and be sued in their corporate names. The purposes for which mosquito abatement districts may be organized and the nature of the business to be carried on by them are as follows: the abatement, control, eradication, and study of mosquitoes and other arthropods of public health importance, and all activities incidental thereto. When any such district is created, the parish governing authority creating same shall appoint a Board of Commissioners, five in number, to govern its affairs, and shall fix the domicile of said board at any point within said parish. The members of the said board shall be qualified electors of the district so created, two of whom shall be appointed for terms of two years and three for terms of three years, dating from the date of the adoption of the ordinance creating any such district. Thereafter all appointments of members shall be for terms of three years. Such boards shall serve without compensation but the members shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with their official duties. Boards shall have authority to manage and control the affairs of their respective districts, to adopt all ordinances reasonably necessary to further the purposes for which such districts are created, and to fix penalties for violations of said ordinances by fine or imprisonment within the limits fixed by law for violations of ordinances of the parish governing authority. For the purpose of purchasing, maintaining and operating machinery and/or equipment necessary or useful in the eradication, abatement, or control of mosquitoes and other arthropods of public health importance and maintaining an adequate administrative staff, such districts shall possess all of the powers conferred upon subdivisions of the state under the provisions of Article X, Section 10, of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana with respect to the levying and collecting of special taxes. To effect economy of operation, any two or more districts may combine the use of administrative and operative personnel and equipment upon such basis of compensation therefor as may be mutually agreed to by all such boards of commissioners participating. The methods to be used in the eradication, abatement, and/or control of mosquitoes and other arthropods shall be submitted to the State Health Department annually for approval by the State Health Officer and the ordinances of any such

Board of Commissioners herein above referred to shall be legally ineffective without such approval."

"The provisions of this section shall be self-operative."

In summary and subject to the approval of the State Health Officer, the Mosquito Abatement Districts shall be (1) a political and legal subdivision of the State; (2) have authority to manage and control its activities and to adopt appropriate ordinances and fix penalties for violations; (3) levy and collect special taxes for the purpose of providing necessary resources; and (4) combine efforts with other districts. All of these are for the purpose and responsibility of:

"the abatement, control, eradication, and study of mosquitoes and other arthropods of public health importance, and all activities incidental thereto."