

**CHAPTER 12**

**LIBRARIES**

**Sub-Chapter A -- In General**

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**In General**

**SECTION 12:1. LAFOURCHE PARISH PUBLIC LIBRARY ESTABLISHED**

In accordance with authority vested in this police jury by Act No. 36 of 1926, there is hereby established the Lafourche Parish Public Library, said library to be located at the parish seat, Thibodaux, Louisiana. (Ord. No. 667,12/11/35)

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**Comment** -- Act No. 36 of 1926 cited in the above Section has been codified in the Louisiana Revised Statutes as LRS 25:211, et seq. It provides the basic authority for police juries to establish public libraries, and governs their financing, operation, etc.

**SECTION 12.2. EXPENSES OF PARISH LIBRARY TO BE SPREAD PARISHWIDE**

The parish public library shall be equipped, maintained, operated and supported at the expense of the entire parish, including the incorporated towns therein, and all taxes levied and assessed, whether general or special, for its establishment, support and maintenance, shall be borne proportionately by all of the taxable property of the parish, including that within incorporated municipalities. (Ord. No. 667, 12/11/35)

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**Comment** -- For state law provisions governing the funding of parish libraries see LRS 25:213. Also see LRS 25:217 for related provision.

**SECTION 12:3. LIBRARY TO BE GOVERNED BY BOARD OF CONTROL**

The Parish public library shall be governed by a board of control of which the President of the Parish Council shall be an Ex-officio member, and there shall be seven (7) other members, citizens of the parish who shall serve for staggered terms of five (5) years each. All appointments to the board and all vacancies shall be filled by the Lafourche Parish Council.

- A. The term for seat one shall expire on November 9<sup>th</sup>, in years ending with a 4 or a 9.
- B. The term for seat two shall expire on June 9<sup>th</sup>, in years ending with a 4 or a 9.
- C. The term for seat three shall expire on March 13<sup>th</sup>, in years ending with a 0 or a 5.
- D. The term for seat four shall expire on March 10<sup>th</sup>, in years ending with a 3 or an 8.

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- E. The term for seat five shall expire on December 30<sup>th</sup>, in years ending with a 3 or an 8.
- F. The term for seat six shall expire on March 12<sup>th</sup>, in years ending with a 1 or a 6.
- G. The term for seat seven shall expire on June 10<sup>th</sup>, in years ending with a 2 or a 7.

H. The parish president shall have the right to designate another member of the governing authority of the parish to serve in his/her place as the library liaison.

(Ord. No. 667,12/11/35; as amended by Ord. No.1529, 11/14/84; Ord. No. 3539, 01/25/05; Ord. No. 3600, 5/10/05)

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**Comment** -- Ordinance No. 1529 increased the membership on the library board from five members, plus the Parish President, to eight members, plus the President.

For requirement that parish governing bodies appoint a board of control to administer library operations, see LRS 25:214.

**SECTION 12:4. DUTIES AND POWERS OF LIBRARY BOARD; EMPLOYMENT OF LIBRARIAN; ASSISTANTS, ETC.**

The Board of Control shall meet and organize immediately after their appointment and annually thereafter and elect a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, whose duties shall be those customarily exercised by such officers. The Board of Control shall have authority to establish rules and regulations for its own government and that of the library not inconsistent with law; to elect and employ a librarian and, upon the recommendation and approval of the latter, to employ assistant librarians and other employees and fix their salaries and compensation; provided that no contract of employment shall be made for a longer period than four (4) years nor with any person as head librarian who has not been certified by the State Board of Library Examiners as provided in LRS 25:222. The head librarian may be appointed or elected secretary of the board of control. (LRS 25:215)

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**Comment** -- The final paragraph of the ordinance creating the parish library provided, "That said Board of Control shall have all of the authority in respect to said parish public library as is conferred upon it by law." Rather than codify that statement, the above section was added reflecting the general powers and duties of library boards as provided in state law.

**SECTION 12:5. REPORTS TO STATE LIBRARY AND POLICE JURY**

The President of the Board of Control and the librarian of every public library established and maintained under this Section shall make annual reports to the Louisiana State Library giving such statistics and other information as may be required by it, such reports to be made at such time and on such blanks or forms as the Louisiana State Library may require and provide. The governing authority of the parish or municipality establishing the public library and creating the board of control may also require reports annually or quarterly or both of the board or its president. (LRS 25:216)

**SECTIONS 12:6 - 12:49. RESERVED**

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**Comment** -- The Bayou Land Library System was originally established by Resolution of 10-9-74 and information on the system appeared in earlier editions of the Code. Ordinance No. 3642 of July 12, 2005, deleted in its entirety all reference to the Bayou Land Library System.