
DIGEST

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HB 195 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

Selders

Abstract: Adds civilian emergency dispatchers to the definition of "first responder" for purposes of emergency assistance and preparedness and provides a definition for "civilian emergency dispatchers".

Present law (R.S. 23:1017.1(6)) provides a definition of "first responder" as meaning a volunteer engaged in activities involving the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness pursuant to present law (R.S. 29:721 et seq.) and first responders as defined in present law (R.S. 40:1231) including but not limited to medical personnel, emergency and medical technicians, volunteer firemen, auxiliary law enforcement officers, and members of the Civil Air Patrol.

Present law (R.S. 29:739(C)) provides that "first responder" refers to those individuals who in the early stages of an incident are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence, and the environment, including emergency response providers as defined in Section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101), as well as emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works, and other skilled support personnel, such as equipment operators that provide immediate support services during prevention, response, and recovery operations consistent with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8.

Proposed law retains present law and adds state agency essential workers, emergency service dispatchers, and emergency response operators to the definition of "first responder".

Proposed law retains present law (R.S. 29:723(9)) and adds state agency essential workers to the definition of "first responder".

Proposed law retains present law (R.S. 40:1372) and adds the definition for "emergency response operator", "emergency services dispatcher", and "first responder".

Proposed law authorizes the Louisiana State Law Institute to arrange in alphabetical order and renumber the definitions provided in R.S. 29:723.

(Amends R.S. 23:1017.1(6), R.S. 29:723(9), and R.S. 40:1372)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Add state agency essential workers, emergency service dispatchers, and emergency response operators to the definition of "first responder".
3. Add definitions for "emergency response operator", "emergency services dispatcher", and "first responder" under State Police Law.