



1 §722. Purpose

2 A. Because of the existing possibility of the occurrence of emergencies and  
3 disasters of unprecedented size and destructiveness resulting from terrorist events,  
4 enemy attack, sabotage, or other hostile action, or from fire, flood, earthquake, or  
5 other natural or manmade causes, and in order to ensure that preparations of this state  
6 will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters, and in order to detect,  
7 prevent, prepare for, investigate, respond to, or recover from these events, and  
8 generally to preserve the lives and property of the people of the state of Louisiana,  
9 it is hereby found and declared to be necessary:

10 (1) To create and provide for designation of the Governor's Office of  
11 Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness within the Military Department,  
12 State of Louisiana, as the state homeland security and emergency preparedness  
13 agency and to authorize the creation of local organizations for emergency  
14 preparedness in the political subdivisions of the state.

15 \* \* \*

16 §724. Powers of the governor

17 \* \* \*

18 B.

19 \* \* \*

20 (3) All executive orders or proclamations issued under this Subsection shall  
21 indicate the nature of the disaster or emergency, the designated emergency area  
22 which is or may be affected, and the conditions which have brought it about or which  
23 make possible the termination of the state of disaster or emergency. An executive  
24 order or proclamation shall be disseminated promptly by means calculated to bring  
25 its contents to the attention of the general public and, unless the circumstances  
26 attendant upon the disaster or emergency prevent or impede it, promptly filed with  
27 the Military Department, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency  
28 Preparedness and with the secretary of state.

29 \* \* \*

1 §725. State emergency and disaster agency; powers of director; officers of the  
2 agency

3 A. The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency  
4 Preparedness, hereafter referred to in this Chapter as GOHSEP, is hereby established  
5 ~~as a state agency within the office of the governor~~ Military Department, state of  
6 Louisiana.

7 B. The governor shall designate the Governor's Office of Homeland Security  
8 and Emergency Preparedness within the Military Department as the state homeland  
9 security and emergency preparedness agency. ~~The office shall be an independent~~  
10 ~~agency in the office of the governor and, through its director, shall report directly to~~  
11 ~~the governor.~~ The office shall have authority for and shall be responsible for its own  
12 accounting and budget control, procurement and contract management, personnel  
13 management, and grants management and shall carry out these functions ~~either~~  
14 ~~directly or through authorized assignment to another state agency or department.~~ The  
15 ~~office~~ through the Military Department, which shall have authority to enter into  
16 contracts and agreements necessary in carrying out ~~its~~ the office's functions and  
17 responsibilities.

18 C.(1) There shall be a director of the Governor's Office of Homeland  
19 Security and Emergency Preparedness who shall be ~~appointed by the governor,~~  
20 ~~subject to Senate confirmation~~ employed by and report directly to the adjutant  
21 general. He shall administer the state emergency preparedness agency as provided  
22 in this Chapter. The director shall serve at a salary fixed by the ~~governor, which~~  
23 ~~salary shall not exceed the amount approved for the position by the legislature~~  
24 adjutant general.

25 \* \* \*

26 E. ~~The director shall appoint a deputy director, subject to senate~~  
27 ~~confirmation, to administer the provisions of this Chapter. The deputy director shall~~  
28 ~~have and may exercise such powers and duties of the director as the director shall~~  
29 ~~delegate to him. The director may appoint such assistant deputy directors~~ shall



1 homeland security and emergency preparedness in the state. In order to perform the  
2 duties and functions required under this Chapter, the office may establish and  
3 maintain office of homeland security and emergency preparedness operations  
4 centers. The office may obtain immovable property for such operations centers by  
5 sale, transfer, grant, donation, lease, exchange, or any other means, including  
6 interagency transfers of property and cooperative endeavors.

7 \* \* \*

8 Section 2. R.S. 36:4(B)(7) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

9 §4. Structure of executive branch of state government

10 \* \* \*

11 B. The office of the governor shall be in the executive branch of state  
12 government. The governor may allocate within his office the powers, duties, funds,  
13 functions, appropriations, responsibilities, and personnel of the agencies within his  
14 office and provide for the administration thereof and for the organization of his  
15 office. The following agencies and their powers, duties, functions, and  
16 responsibilities are hereby transferred to the office of the governor:

17 \* \* \*

18 (7) Military Department, state of Louisiana (R.S. 29:1 et seq., ~~excluding~~  
19 ~~provisions for including~~ the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency  
20 Preparedness, R.S. 29:721 et seq.).

21 \* \* \*

22 Section 3. R.S. 36:4(B)(3) is hereby repealed in its entirety.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 274 Engrossed 2025 Regular Session Owen

**Abstract:** Provides for the transfer of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) to the Military Department.

Present law (R.S. 29:725) establishes and provides for the purpose and functions of GOHSEP.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 36:4(B)(3)) places GOHSEP within the office of the governor.

Present law (R.S. 36:4(B)(7)) also places the Military Dept. within the office of the governor, but excludes GOHSEP from the Military Dept.

Proposed law repeals present law (R.S. 36:4(B)(3)) and amends present law (R.S. 36:4(B)(7)) to place GOHSEP within the Military Dept.

Present law provides that the director of GOHSEP shall be appointed by the governor, subject to Senate confirmation.

Proposed law provides that the director of GOHSEP shall be employed by and report directly to the adjutant general who shall fix the salary of the director.

Present law provides that the director of GOHSEP may appoint assistant deputy directors as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the office.

Proposed law provides that the director of GOHSEP shall employ, instead of appoint, a deputy director, and may employ additional deputies and assistants.

Present law provides that the director of GOHSEP is subject to the direction and control of the governor and is responsible for carrying out the programs for homeland security and emergency preparedness for the state.

Proposed law provides that the director is subject to the direction and control of the governor, acting through the adjutant general and further provides that for actions related to a gubernatorially declared disaster or emergency, the agency and director shall report to the governor or a person designated by the governor for that purpose.

Proposed law further provides that present law and proposed law shall not supersede the powers, duties, or authority of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police.

(Amends R.S. 29:1(B), 722(A)(1), 724(B)(3), 725(A), (B), (C)(1), (E), and (H), and 726(A) and R.S. 36:4(B)(7); Repeals R.S. 36:4(B)(3))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill:

1. Provide for the authority of GOHSEP related to general functions of the office.
2. Provide for the employment of a deputy director and additional deputies and assistants.
3. Provide for the authority of GOHSEP and the office of state police during a gubernatorially declared state of emergency.
4. Remove changes to the office of interoperability.