

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 274

BY REPRESENTATIVE OWEN

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 29:1(B), 722(A)(1), 724(B)(3), 725(A), (B), (C)(1), (E), and (H),  
3 and 726(A) and R.S. 36:4(B)(7) and to repeal R.S. 36:4(B)(3), relative to the  
4 Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness; to provide  
5 for transition to the Military Department; to provide for the employment, authority,  
6 and duties of the director; to provide for the powers, duties, and authority of the  
7 Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police; and to provide  
8 for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 29:1(B), 722(A)(1), 724(B)(3), 725(A), (B), (C)(1), (E), and (H), and  
11 726(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

12 §1. Military Department

13 \* \* \*

14 B. The Military Department shall be composed of the National Guard,  
15 Louisiana State Guard, Louisiana Military Police, the Governor's Office of  
16 Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, and such other offices that may  
17 be created or established according to law.

18 \* \* \*

19 §722. Purpose

20 A. Because of the existing possibility of the occurrence of emergencies and  
21 disasters of unprecedented size and destructiveness resulting from terrorist events,  
22 enemy attack, sabotage, or other hostile action, or from fire, flood, earthquake, or  
23 other natural or manmade causes, and in order to ensure that preparations of this state

1 will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters, and in order to detect,  
2 prevent, prepare for, investigate, respond to, or recover from these events, and  
3 generally to preserve the lives and property of the people of the state of Louisiana,  
4 it is hereby found and declared to be necessary:

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

10 \* \* \*

11 §724. Powers of the governor

12 \* \* \*

13 B.

14 \* \* \*

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

24 \* \* \*

25 §725. State emergency and disaster agency; powers of director; officers of the  
26 agency

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



1           H. The director, subject to the direction and control of the governor, acting  
2           through the adjutant general, shall be the executive head of the state homeland  
3           security and emergency preparedness agency and as such shall be responsible ~~to the~~  
4           ~~governor~~ for carrying out the programs for homeland security and emergency  
5           preparedness for the state of Louisiana. For actions related to a gubernatorially  
6           declared disaster or emergency, the agency and director shall report to the governor  
7           or a person designated by the governor for that purpose. He shall coordinate the  
8           activities of all agencies and organizations for homeland security and emergency  
9           preparedness within the state and shall maintain liaison with and cooperate with  
10          homeland security and emergency preparedness agencies and organizations of other  
11          states and of the federal government. He shall coordinate public-private sector  
12          relationships in order to meet the needs of an emergency or disaster pursuant to R.S.  
13          29:726. All state agencies and departments shall comply with directives from the  
14          Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness relating to  
15          emergency planning and operations. He shall coordinate the implementation of the  
16          Emergency Management Assistance Compact pursuant to R.S. 29:733. The  
17          provisions of this Subsection shall not supersede the powers, duties, or authority of  
18          the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police.

\* \* \*

20          §726. Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness;  
21          authority and responsibilities

22          A. The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency  
23          Preparedness, under the ~~governor~~ Military Department, shall be responsible for  
24          homeland security and emergency preparedness in the state. In order to perform the  
25          duties and functions required under this Chapter, the office may establish and  
26          maintain office of homeland security and emergency preparedness operations  
27          centers. The office may obtain immovable property for such operations centers by  
28          sale, transfer, grant, donation, lease, exchange, or any other means, including  
29          interagency transfers of property and cooperative endeavors.

\* \* \*

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

2 §4. Structure of executive branch of state government

3 \* \* \*

4 B. The office of the governor shall be in the executive branch of state  
5 government. The governor may allocate within his office the powers, duties, funds,  
6 functions, appropriations, responsibilities, and personnel of the agencies within his  
7 office and provide for the administration thereof and for the organization of his  
8 office. The following agencies and their powers, duties, functions, and  
9 responsibilities are hereby transferred to the office of the governor:

10 \* \* \*

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

14 \* \* \*

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_