

2025 Regular Session

ACT No. 374

HOUSE BILL NO. 526

BY REPRESENTATIVES JACOB LANDRY, BOYER, CARRIER, DESHOTEL, DEVILLIER, DICKERSON, ECHOLS, EGAN, EMERSON, FARNUM, GADBERRY, HEBERT, HENRY, OWEN, SCHAMERHORN, VILLIO, AND WRIGHT

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 43:81 and R.S. 49:1301 through 1308 and to repeal R.S.
3 42:19(A)(2)(c) and R.S. 43:81.1 through 90, relative to the official journal of the
4 state; to provide that the official journal of the state shall be a website established
5 and maintained by the commissioner of administration; to provide for
6 advertisements, public notices, or proclamations on a website maintained by the
7 legislature; to remove requirements designating a newspaper as the official journal
8 of the state, including provisions relative to printing, contracts, and bidding; to
9 provide for the publication of notices for a proposal to effect certain changes related
10 to any retirement system for public employees; to apply requirements pertaining to
11 a website containing information about certain boards and commissions to the
12 website serving as the official journal of the state; to broaden the application of such
13 requirements; to direct the Louisiana State Law Institute to redesignate certain
14 provisions of law; and to provide for related matters.

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

2 Section 1. R.S. 43:81 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

3 §81. Official journal of state

4 A. ~~The printing of advertisements;~~ Advertisements, public notices,
 5 proclamations, and all public notices and advertising to be done by the legislature,
 6 or the executive or other departments and institutions of the state government, shall
 7 be published ~~in a daily newspaper~~ on a website established and maintained by the
 8 commissioner of administration to be known and designated as the "Official Journal
 9 of the State", ~~which newspaper shall have and possess the following qualifications:~~
 10 State". Except public notices required by the Constitution of Louisiana, the
 11 legislature may publish any advertisements, public notices, or proclamations on the
 12 legislature's website.

13 (1) ~~It shall possess the periodicals class mailing privilege.~~

14 (2) ~~It shall be published in and have a general circulation in Louisiana.~~

15 (3) ~~It shall have been so published at least once per week for a period of not~~
 16 ~~less than two years prior to the time that it is awarded the contract as the Official~~
 17 ~~Journal of the State, as provided in this Chapter.~~

18 B.(1) ~~For the purposes of Article III, Section 19 of the Constitution of~~
 19 ~~Louisiana, the Official Journal of the State shall be the Internet website or portal of~~
 20 ~~the Official Journal of the State.~~

21 (2) ~~All~~ (1) For the purposes of Article III, Section 19 of the Constitution of
 22 Louisiana, all laws and joint resolutions shall be accessible through the Official
 23 Journal of the State as defined in this Subsection Section prior to the sixtieth day
 24 after final adjournment of the session in which they were enacted and shall remain
 25 accessible for at least one year. Any act that contains an effective date prior to the
 26 sixtieth day after final adjournment shall be accessible prior to the effective date
 27 contained therein, if possible, or if not possible, as soon as possible after such
 28 effective date.

29 (2) For purposes of Article X, Section 29 of the Constitution of Louisiana,
 30 the commissioner of administration shall promulgate rules and fees in accordance

1 with the Administrative Procedure Act to provide for the publication of notices on
 2 the Official Journal of the State by any person, without cost to the state, of a proposal
 3 to effect any change in existing laws or constitutional provisions relating to any
 4 retirement system for public employees.

5 Section 2. R.S. 49:1301 through 1308 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
 6 follows:

7 §1301. Commissioner of administration; duties; sunset review of boards; and
 8 commissions, and like entities

9 A. The commissioner of administration shall ~~establish and maintain a~~
 10 ~~website to~~ post the information designated in R.S. 49:1302: on the Official Journal
 11 of the State.

12 B.(1) If the commissioner of administration determines that a board; or
 13 ~~commission, or like entity covered by this Chapter~~ has failed to submit the
 14 information required pursuant to R.S. 49:1304 in the manner required by this
 15 Chapter, the commissioner shall send the board; or commission; ~~or like entity~~ a
 16 notice of noncompliance by certified mail, return receipt requested.

17 (2)(a)(i) If the board; or commission; ~~or like entity~~ fails to submit the
 18 information required pursuant to R.S. 49:1304 in the manner required by this Chapter
 19 within the response period, the commissioner shall send notice detailing the failure
 20 to comply to the board; or commission; ~~or like entity~~ and to the chief administrative
 21 officer of the department of which the board; or commission; ~~or like entity~~ is a part,
 22 if applicable.

23 (ii) The commissioner shall also send notice detailing the failure to comply
 24 to the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, the House Committee
 25 on House and Governmental Affairs, and the oversight committees for the board; or
 26 ~~commission, or like entity.~~

27 (b)(i) Each oversight committee that receives a notice pursuant to Item (a)(ii)
 28 of this Paragraph ~~shall~~ may within sixty days of receiving the notice evaluate the
 29 board; or commission; ~~or like entity~~ and determine whether the board; or
 30 ~~commission, or like entity~~ should be continued, modified, or terminated. The

1 committee may direct the board; or commission; ~~or like entity~~ to begin to terminate
 2 its operations and to prepare for the orderly transfer or termination of its powers,
 3 duties, responsibilities, and functions, as appropriate.

4 (ii) No later than thirty days prior to the beginning of a regular session, each
 5 oversight committee that received a notice pursuant to Item (a)(ii) of this Paragraph
 6 during the year prior to the year in which the session is to be held ~~shall~~ may submit
 7 a report to the legislature and the governor. The report shall contain a summary of
 8 all action taken by the committee with respect to each such notice. The report shall
 9 also contain the committee's determination as to whether each board; or commission;
 10 ~~or like entity~~ that was the subject of such a notice should be continued, modified, or
 11 terminated and any legislation concerning the board; or commission; ~~or like entity~~
 12 that the committee will propose to the legislature.

13 (c)(i) For purposes of this Paragraph, "response period" means the period of
 14 time beginning with the day the notice of noncompliance sent pursuant to Paragraph
 15 (1) of this Subsection is received by the board; or commission; ~~or like entity~~ and
 16 ending ninety days later.

17 (ii) For purposes of this Paragraph, "oversight committees" means the
 18 standing committees of the two houses of the legislature which have usual
 19 jurisdiction over the affairs of the board; or commission; ~~or like entity~~.

20 C. The provisions of Subsection B of this Section shall not apply to any
 21 board which is responsible for the administration of any statewide retirement fund
 22 held in trust for the benefit of its participants and which retirement fund is not the
 23 direct financial responsibility of the state.

24 §1302. ~~Website; content~~ Content

25 The ~~website established pursuant to R.S. 49:1301 shall contain~~ commissioner
 26 of administration shall post on the Official Journal of the State the following
 27 information for boards; and commissions; ~~and like entities covered by this Chapter:~~

28 ~~A:~~ (1) Each notice of a meeting required to be given pursuant to R.S. 42:19,
 29 including all of the information required pursuant to R.S. 42:19 to be included in the
 30 notice.

1 B: (2) Minutes of meetings required to be made available to the public
 2 pursuant to R.S. 42:20, including any attachments.

3 (3) Audio and video recordings of meetings required to be made available
 4 pursuant to R.S. 42:23.

5 ~~C: (4)~~ Statutory citations to provisions specifically creating the board; or
 6 ~~commission, or like entity~~; providing for its membership; and providing for its
 7 powers and authority.

8 ~~D: (5)~~ Contact information, including the name of one or more contacts at
 9 the board; or ~~commission, or like entity~~; a mailing address; an e-mail address, if
 10 applicable; a website address, if applicable; and a phone number.

11 ~~E: (1)~~ (6)(a) Membership information, including the number, names,
 12 compensation, terms, length of service, and method of selection of members.

13 ~~(2)~~ (b) The information required by ~~this Subsection~~ Subparagraph (a) of this
 14 Paragraph shall include per diem and reimbursement for travel expenses, including
 15 the amount of such expenses paid per meeting and an aggregate amount of such
 16 expenses paid per fiscal year.

17 F: (7) Employee information, including the number, job description or title,
 18 and salaries of employees.

19 ~~G: (8)~~ Financial and budget information, including a detailed description of
 20 revenues and expenditures for the current fiscal year and the previous two fiscal
 21 years.

22 H: (9) The rules, regulations, and procedures of the board; or ~~commission;~~
 23 ~~or like entity~~.

24 §1303. Submission of notices and minutes

25 A. Each board; and ~~commission, or like entity~~ covered by this Chapter shall
 26 submit each notice required to be included on the ~~website~~ Official Journal of the
 27 State pursuant to R.S. 49:1302(A) to the commissioner of administration in a manner
 28 which allows the commissioner enough time to post the notice ~~on the website~~ prior
 29 to the deadline applicable to the board; or ~~commission, or like entity~~ for giving
 30 notice pursuant to R.S. 42:19.

1 B. Each board; ~~and~~ commission, ~~or like entity covered by this Chapter~~ shall
2 submit minutes required to be included on the ~~website~~ Official Journal of the State
3 pursuant to R.S. 49:1302(B) to the commissioner of administration within ten days
4 after the minutes are adopted by the board; ~~or~~ commission, ~~or like entity~~.

5 C. All submissions of information required by this Section shall be made in
6 an electronic format designated by the commissioner of administration.

7 §1304. Submission of other information

8 A. Each board; ~~and~~ commission, ~~or like entity covered by this Chapter~~ shall
9 fully cooperate with the commissioner of administration in implementing and
10 complying with the requirements of this Chapter.

11 B.(1) Except as provided in R.S. 49:1303, each board; ~~and~~ commission, ~~or~~
12 ~~like entity covered by this Chapter~~ shall submit to the commissioner of
13 administration all information required to be included on the ~~website~~ Official Journal
14 of the State pursuant to R.S. 49:1302 by February first of each year. Except as
15 provided in ~~R.S. 49:1302(E)(2) and (G)~~, R.S. 49:1302 relative to membership
16 information and financial and budget information, the information shall be complete
17 for the previous calendar year.

18 (2) The information required to be submitted pursuant to this Section shall
19 be submitted by an appropriate officer of the board; ~~or~~ commission, ~~or like entity~~.
20 The officer shall certify that the information submitted is true and correct to the best
21 of his knowledge, information, and belief.

22 C. All submissions of information required by this Section shall be made in
23 an electronic format designated by the commissioner of administration.

24 §1305. Applicability

25 A. ~~This Chapter shall apply to the following boards, commissions, and like~~
26 ~~entities:~~ For purposes of this Chapter, "boards and commissions" shall have the
27 same meaning as provided in R.S. 42:1124.2.1(D)(1)(a)(i) and shall include any
28 committee, subcommittee, or panel of any board or commission.

1 (1) ~~Any board, commission, or like entity that is a licensing agency pursuant~~
 2 ~~to the Louisiana Licensing Agency Budget Act (R.S. 39:1331 et seq.).~~

3 (2) ~~The Louisiana Board of Cosmetology (R.S. 37:571).~~

4 (3) ~~Each board and commission whose members are required to file annual~~
 5 ~~financial disclosure statements pursuant to R.S. 42:1124.2.1.~~

6 B. ~~This Chapter shall also apply to any committee, subcommittee, or panel~~
 7 ~~of any board, commission, or like entity specified in Subsection A of this Section.~~

8 §1305.1. ~~Additional limited applicability of Chapter; notices of meetings only;~~
 9 ~~duties~~ Duties of the commissioner

10 A. ~~Each public body as defined in R.S. 42:13 not included in R.S. 49:1305~~
 11 ~~but which is required to give notice of its meetings in the manner required by R.S.~~
 12 ~~42:19(A) is subject to the provisions of this Section but not to other provisions of this~~
 13 ~~Chapter.~~

14 B. ~~Each public body subject to this Section shall submit each notice of a~~
 15 ~~meeting to the commissioner of administration in a manner which allows the~~
 16 ~~commissioner enough time to post the notice on the website established pursuant to~~
 17 ~~R.S. 49:1301 prior to the deadline applicable to the public body for giving notice~~
 18 ~~pursuant to R.S. 42:19(A).~~

19 C. ~~All submissions of notice required by this Section shall be made in an~~
 20 ~~electronic format designated by the commissioner of administration.~~

21 D. A. ~~The commissioner of administration shall include each notice received~~
 22 ~~pursuant to this Section on the website established pursuant to R.S. 49:1301~~ maintain
 23 ~~the information required by this Chapter~~ in an easily searchable format and shall
 24 ~~provide for the capability for members of the public to request and receive electronic~~
 25 ~~notifications of meetings.~~

26 E. B. ~~The commissioner of administration shall establish a timeline and plan~~
 27 ~~for the implementation of the technological functions of the website established~~
 28 ~~pursuant to R.S. 49:1301~~ required by Subsection D A of this Section.

1 §1306. Rules and regulations

2 The commissioner of administration may adopt rules and regulations in the
3 manner provided by the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions
4 of this Chapter.

5 §1307. Legislative auditor

6 The legislative auditor shall work with the commissioner of administration
7 to ensure that each board; and commission; ~~or like entity covered by this Chapter~~
8 complies with the provisions of this Chapter.

9 §1308. Internet publication of certain information concerning permits and licenses;
10 information required to be published; manner of publication

11 A.~~(1)~~ Each state entity ~~subject to the provisions of this Chapter~~ that issues
12 a permit or license shall ~~prominently include on its internet website~~ submit the
13 information required by Subsection B of this Section for inclusion in the Official
14 Journal of the State.

15 ~~(2) If a state entity does not have an internet website, the department of~~
16 ~~which the state entity is a part shall include the information required by Subsection~~
17 ~~B of this Section for the state entity on the website of the department.~~

18 B. All of the following information shall be ~~included on the website:~~
19 included:

20 (1) A brief description of each permit or license that the state entity issues.
21 For each such permit or license, links to the following shall be included:

22 (a) The full text of the current application.

23 (b) A checklist of all information required to be submitted to complete the
24 application process.

25 (c) The name and contact information of the person within the state entity
26 responsible for responding to inquiries about the status of an application.

27 (d) The anticipated timeline for review of a completed application.

1 (2) A copy of the annual report submitted to the legislative oversight
 2 committees or subcommittees by the state entity pursuant to Subsection C of this
 3 Section.

4 C. Each state entity shall annually submit to its legislative oversight
 5 committee or subcommittee a report containing the number of permit or license
 6 applications received, the number of permits or licenses issued, and timelines for
 7 approval of an application.

8 D. For the purposes of this Section, "state entity" means any department,
 9 office, division, commission, council, board, bureau, or other regulatory agency of
 10 state government.

11 Section 3. R.S. 42:19(A)(2)(c) and R.S. 43:81.1 through 90 are hereby repealed in
 12 their entirety.

13 Section 4.(A) The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to incorporate
 14 R.S. 49:1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1305.1, 1306, 1307, and 1308, all as amended and
 15 reenacted by this Act, into Chapter 2 of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950
 16 in lieu of certain provisions repealed by this Act, as follows:

- 17 (1) R.S. 49:1301 shall be redesignated as R.S. 43:81.1.
- 18 (2) R.S. 49:1302 shall be redesignated as R.S. 43:82.
- 19 (3) R.S. 49:1303 shall be redesignated as R.S. 43:83.
- 20 (4) R.S. 49:1304 shall be redesignated as R.S. 43:84.
- 21 (5) R.S. 49:1305 shall be redesignated as R.S. 43:85.
- 22 (6) R.S. 49:1305.1 shall be redesignated as R.S. 43:86.
- 23 (7) R.S. 49:1306 shall be redesignated as R.S. 43:87.
- 24 (8) R.S. 49:1307 shall be redesignated as R.S. 43:88.
- 25 (9) R.S. 49:1308 shall be redesignated as R.S. 43:89.

26 (B) The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to review all statutes which
 27 contain citations being redesignated by this Act in all statutory locations, including but not
 28 limited to the citations contained in the provisions of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised

1 Statutes of 1950 in Paragraph (A) of this Section, and change all such citations to conform
2 with such redesignations.

3 Section 5. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2027.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____