RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 77 (HB 576) **2026 Regular Session** **Gadberry**

Existing law (R.S. 49:141(A)) creates the Division of State Buildings in the office of the governor. Provides that the division is administered by a superintendent of state buildings appointed by the governor. Provides that the superintendent shall have charge of the management, operation, and maintenance of general public buildings of the state, including the new governor's mansion.

Prior law included the Old Governor's Mansion among the general public buildings of the state that are under the jurisdiction of the superintendent of the Division of State Buildings. New law repeals prior law.

Prior law (R.S. 49:141(B)) provided that the Division of State Buildings had custody and supervision of maintenance of the Old Governor's Mansion with its buildings and improvements. Provided that the superintendent of state buildings would maintain the building and grounds with money appropriated by the legislature for such purposes. New law repeals prior law.

Prior law (R.S. 49:141(C)) provided for the management and control of the property of the Old Governor's Mansion by the commissioner of administration. Authorized the commissioner to transfer custody, supervision, and general administrative control to any public agency or non-profit corporation with sufficient resources to preserve the mansion and its contents. New law repeals prior law.

New law establishes the Old Governor's Mansion under the overall jurisdiction of the Dept. of State. Provides that the secretary of state shall have custody, control, and supervision of maintenance of the building and its contents, including all of its management, functions, programs, and operations. Provides that the secretary shall have full authority over the building's grounds and all other buildings and improvements constructed thereon. Provides that title to the Old Governor's Mansion remains in the State of La., along with all buildings and other improvements constructed thereon.

New law provides that the Old Governor's Mansion shall function as a historical, cultural, and educational institution with a primary purpose to collect, preserve, and present documents, artifacts, and objects of art that reflect the politics, history, art, and culture of La.

New law authorizes the secretary of state to enter into contracts and agreements with public agencies or nonprofit corporations that are established for the primary purpose of supporting the programs and activities of the Old Governor's Mansion for the creation of offices, stores, or exhibits on the property of and within the building. Authorizes the secretary to enter into contracts and agreements for joint construction, equipment, maintenance, and financing thereof, and for the joint financing, supervision, and conduct of cooperative enterprises and undertakings. Authorizes any public agency to enter into contracts and agreements with the secretary for such purposes.

New law requires the legislature to provide sufficient funds for the proper operation of the Old Governor's Mansion. Authorizes the Dept. of State to temporarily close the building to the public until the legislature is able to appropriate sufficient funds for its operation. Requires the department to maintain the building during any period of temporary closure.

New law authorizes the secretary of state to solicit and accept funds, governmental grants, and donations. Authorizes the secretary of state to accept contributions of lands, buildings, monies, relics, works of art, or other property on behalf of and as additions to the Old Governor's Mansion in the form of loans or donations. Authorizes the secretary of state to acquire such loans or donations by purchase, lease, or otherwise, subject to the terms, conditions, or limitations contained in the loan or donation agreement by which the property is acquired. Authorizes the secretary of state to enter into any contracts with any person, lender, or donor that he deems fit, proper, and necessary to accept and receive such property on behalf of and as additions to the Old Governor's Mansion.

New law provides that the Old Governor's Mansion is authorized to serve as the beneficiary of any public trust created pursuant to existing law.

New law grants the secretary of state the authority of deaccession with respect to any collections of the Old Governor's Mansion. Exempts the secretary of state, for such purposes, from the laws of the state relative to the sale or disposal of surplus property. Requires the secretary of state to establish policies and procedures necessary to carry out this authority.

New law provides a procedure for acquiring property deposited with the Old Governor's Mansion, by loan or otherwise, which has been in its possession for more than 10 years without claim.

New law authorizes, subject to approval by the secretary of state, the collections of the Old Governor's Mansion to be lent in part. Requires the secretary of state to ensure proper safeguards for the maintenance and return of such collections and to ensure that proper records of such lending are kept.

Effective upon signature of governor (May 11, 2026).

(Amends R.S. 49:141; Adds R.S. 25:380.161- 380.166)