

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1070 (Substitute for House Bill No. 759 by Representative Schexnayder)

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHEXNAYDER

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: Provides relative to the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 29:725(A) and 726(F), to enact R.S. 29:725(K), 726(G), and

3 728(G), and to repeal R.S. 29:725.5, 726(E)(25), and 731, relative to the Governor's

4 Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness; to provide requirements

5 for the statewide emergency management software system; to provide for mandatory

6 training requirements; to provide relative to employees in parish offices of homeland

7 security and emergency preparedness; to provide relative to prepositioned contracts;

8 to provide relative to procurement; to provide for reporting; to provide for temporary

9 housing assistance; to provide for eligibility; to provide relative to waivers of local

10 land use regulations; to provide for exemptions; to provide for an effective date; and

11 to provide for related matters.

12 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

13 Section 1. R.S. 29:725(A) and 726(F) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
14 29:725(K), 726(G), and 728(G) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

15 §725. State emergency and disaster agency; powers of director; assistant deputy  
16 director of interoperability

17 A. The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency  
18 Preparedness, hereafter referred to in this Chapter as GOHSEP, is hereby established  
19 as a state agency within the office of the governor.

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2 K.(1) The office of interoperability shall be headed by an assistant deputy  
3 director of interoperability who shall be in the unclassified service. The assistant  
4 deputy director may delegate authority to such designees or to any governmental  
5 body as the assistant deputy director may deem appropriate within the limitations of  
6 state and federal laws, rules, and regulations. The assistant deputy director of  
7 interoperability may promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of  
8 R.S. 29:725.1 through 725.4.

9 (2) The assistant deputy director of interoperability shall work in conjunction  
10 with the state Unified Command Group and interoperability subcommittee to  
11 develop, implement, and maintain a secure interagency communication across  
12 jurisdictional and geographic boundaries to enable end users to access authorized  
13 information when and how they need it as identified in the statewide interoperability  
14 plan and statewide communications interoperability plan for first responders.

15 (3) The assistant deputy director of interoperability shall perform the  
16 following functions:

17 (a) Serve as chairman of the interoperability subcommittee.

18 (b) Serve as the state liaison for interoperability.

19 (c) Administer the statewide communications interoperability plan in  
20 coordination with the chief information officer or his designee.

21 (d) Partner with local, state, and federal officials to achieve emergency  
22 response interoperability in every parish throughout the state.

23 (e) Leverage existing local, state, and federal efforts, including assets and  
24 resources, to ensure better coordination and accountability for activities including but  
25 not limited to research and development, testing and evaluation, standards, technical  
26 assistance, training, and funding for interoperability.

27 (f) Support the creation of interoperability standards.

28 (g) Submit recommendations to the legislature relative to any changes in  
29 state law necessary to remove barriers to achieving communications interoperability.

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

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~~F. The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness shall ascertain what means exist for rapid communications in times of disaster or emergencies, shall consider the desirability of supplementing these communications resources or of integrating them into a comprehensive state or state-federal telecommunication or other communications system or its several parts, shall evaluate the possibility of multipurpose use thereof for general state and local governmental purposes, and shall make recommendations to the governor as appropriate. No later than August 1, 2022, GOHSEP shall:~~

(1) Ensure that the official state emergency management software system:

(a) Is accessible to all sixty-four parishes, state and federal agencies, and approved non-governmental emergency management partners to monitor and manage activities before, during, and after an emergency or disaster.

(b) Has the capability to allow GOHSEP to update the status of all requests for resources and services continuously and make the information simultaneously available to all users.

(2) Develop an online emergency management training program to be completed on an annual basis by each parish president and any parish or municipal employee or elected official identified by the director of each parish office of homeland security and emergency preparedness pursuant to R.S. 29:728(G). GOHSEP shall provide the training program in-person only if requested by the parish office.

(3)(a) Coordinate with the office of state procurement, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the Department of Transportation and Development, and the Department of Military Affairs to prepare a report indicating the following:

1           (i) The amount of procured goods and services utilized for emergency  
2           preparedness and disaster response.

3           (ii) The number of emergency contracts for the preceding calendar year that  
4           were let without competition pursuant to an executive order issued under the  
5           authority granted in R.S. 29:724.

6           (b) GOHSEP shall submit the report to the Joint Legislative Committee on  
7           the Budget and the House and Senate select committees on homeland security.

8           (4) Develop a program to provide additional funding and resources for  
9           temporary housing and shelter assistance to parish governing authorities during the  
10          first fourteen days following a presidential declaration of a major disaster or  
11          emergency. The program shall include the following:

12          (a) GOHSEP shall enter into prepositioned contracts for temporary housing  
13          and shelter and professional services for disaster recovery, grant management, and  
14          administration for the program. GOHSEP shall prioritize post-disaster delivery time  
15          when letting the contracts.

16          (b) A parish governing authority shall be eligible for participation in the  
17          program if all of the following conditions are met:

18          (i) The parish is included in a presidential declaration of a major disaster or  
19          an emergency.

20          (ii) The parish governing authority submits a request to GOHSEP within  
21          seven days after the presidential disaster declaration.

22          (iii)(aa) The parish governing authority has submitted a certification to  
23          GOHSEP that the local governing authority will waive any land use regulations  
24          relative to permitting for mobile homes, recreational vehicles, and other temporary  
25          housing to allow for expedited temporary housing assistance in the parish.

26          (bb) If the parish governing authority submits the certification to waive  
27          parish land use regulations but the municipal governing authority fails to submit the  
28          certification, the temporary housing assistance shall only apply for parish residents  
29          residing outside of the municipality.



- 1 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
2 effective on the day following such approval.

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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 1070 Original

2022 Regular Session

Schexnayder

**Abstract:** Provides relative to the operational procedures of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Present law provides for the authorities and responsibilities of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP).

Proposed law retains present law and adds that GOHSEP shall do the following by Aug. 1, 2022:

- (1) Ensure the official state emergency management software system is accessible to certain entities to monitor and manage activities before, during, and after an emergency or disaster and has the capability to allow the office to update the status of all requests for resources and services continuously and provide information simultaneously to all users.
- (2) Develop an online emergency management training program to be completed annually by each parish president and any parish or municipal employee or elected official identified by the director of each parish office of homeland security and emergency preparedness.
- (3) Coordinate with the office of state procurement, Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry, Dept. of Transportation and Development, and Dept. of Military Affairs to prepare a procurement assessment report and submit the report to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) and the House and Senate select committees on homeland security.
- (4) Develop a program to provide temporary housing and shelter assistance to parish governing authorities during the first 14 days following a disaster.

Proposed law provides requirements for GOHSEP to implement the program and for local governments to participate in the program. Eligibility for participation includes waiving certain land use regulations.

Proposed law requires GOHSEP to submit an annual report to JLCB and the House and Senate select committees on homeland security regarding contracts and the temporary housing and shelter assistance program.

Present law requires GOHSEP to study the feasibility of pre-bidding certain contracts for disaster response services.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law provides that office of interoperability shall be headed by an assistant deputy director of interoperability.

Proposed law relocates present law under the present law provision which provides relative to powers of a director..

Present law requires each parish office of homeland security and emergency preparedness to have a director appointed by the parish president and provides for responsibilities of the director.

Proposed law requires the director to designate any parish or municipal employees the director deems necessary to be dedicated on a full-time basis to emergency preparedness and disaster response in the parish.

Proposed law further requires the director to ensure that the employees so designated and any elected officials deemed necessary by the director have received the annual emergency management training program provided by GOHSEP.

Present law provides for a disaster and emergency funding board.

Proposed law repeals present law.

(Amends R.S. 29:725(A) and 726(F); Adds R.S. 29:725(K), 726(G), and 728(G); Repeals R.S. 29:725.5, 726(E)(25), and 731)