

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 799

BY REPRESENTATIVE ST. BLANC

GOVERNOR: Provides for the Louisiana Governor's Mansion Advisory Commission

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact the heading of Chapter 23 of Title 25 of the Revised Statutes of 1950  
3 and R.S. 25:1011, 1012, 1013(A)(3) and (5) and (B), and 1014 and R.S. 36:4(B)(36),  
4 to enact R.S. 42:17(E) and R.S. 44:4(64) and 4.1(B)(40), and to repeal R.S. 25:1016,  
5 relative to the Louisiana Governor's Mansion Advisory Commission; to provide for  
6 the jurisdictional area of the commission; to provide for membership; to provide for  
7 the term of membership for certain members; to provide for the powers, duties, and  
8 responsibilities of the commission; to provide for exceptions to the Public Records  
9 Law and Open Meetings Law; and to provide for related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. The heading of Chapter 23 of Title 25 of the Revised Statutes of 1950 and  
12 R.S. 25:1011, 1012, 1013(A)(3) and (5) and (B), and 1014 are hereby amended and  
13 reenacted to read as follows:

14 CHAPTER 23. LOUISIANA GOVERNOR'S MANSION ADVISORY COMMISSION

15 §1011. Establishment; purpose

16 The Louisiana Governor's Mansion Advisory Commission, hereafter in this  
17 Chapter referred to as the commission, is hereby created and established as an  
18 agency in the office of the governor, for purposes of providing recommendations on  
19 the protection and enhancement of the governor's mansion, its contents, furnishings,  
20 and grounds. The purpose of the commission is to ensure a continuum in the

1 appearance, the preservation of contents, furnishings, and surrounding areas of the  
2 governor's mansion consistent with the historical significance and importance of the  
3 governor's mansion.

4 §1012. Jurisdictional area

5 The commission shall have jurisdiction over the public ~~as well as private~~  
6 areas of the governor's mansion and grounds. Public areas shall consist of the first  
7 floor, the stairwell in the rotunda, ~~the state wing of the second floor~~, and all grounds  
8 in front and on each side of the mansion. The private areas of the governor's  
9 mansion and grounds shall be all other areas within the mansion and grounds not  
10 specifically described as a public area in this Section.

11 §1013. Membership; appointment; terms; officers; compensation

12 A. The commission shall be composed as follows:

13 \* \* \*

14 (3) The chief of staff of the governor's spouse or, if the governor has no  
15 spouse, the person employed at the governor's mansion in the position known as the  
16 executive residence director.

17 \* \* \*

18 (5) Three members appointed by the governor ~~after consultation with staff~~  
19 ~~employed at the governor's mansion.~~

20 B.(1) ~~The initial terms of the members appointed pursuant to Paragraphs~~  
21 ~~(A)(2), (4), and (5) of this Section shall be as determined by lot at the first meeting~~  
22 ~~of the commission as follows: one member shall serve an initial term of one year;~~  
23 ~~one member shall serve an initial term of two years; one member shall serve an~~  
24 ~~initial term of three years; one member shall serve an initial term of four years; and~~  
25 ~~one member shall serve an initial term of five years.~~

26 (2) ~~After the initial term of office, the term of each of the members~~  
27 ~~appointed pursuant to Paragraphs (A)(2), (4), and (5) of this Section shall be five~~

1       ~~years.~~ The members appointed pursuant to Paragraphs (A)(2), (4), and (5) shall  
2       serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

3   \*       \*       \*

4       §1014. Commission powers, duties, and responsibilities; approval of changes  
5       required

6           A. ~~No improvement, renovation, redecoration, or enhancement of the public~~  
7       ~~or private areas and grounds of the governor's mansion shall be made without the~~  
8       ~~prior approval of the commission. Commission approval shall be required prior to~~  
9       ~~any painting, renovation, non-appliance repair, redecoration, or significant~~  
10       ~~movement of or rearrangement of furniture, artwork, antique pieces, vases, or other~~  
11       ~~items in the public areas.~~

12           B. ~~In addition, the~~ The commission shall have the following powers, duties,  
13       functions, and responsibilities:

14               (1) To make recommendations relative to improvements, renovation,  
15       redecoration, or enhancement of the governor's mansion.

16               (2) To hold meetings as necessary, which shall be held at the governor's  
17       mansion.

18               (3) To promote a greater understanding and awareness of the importance and  
19       significance of the governor's mansion and enhance and maintain the appearance,  
20       furnishings, and surroundings thereof so that it may serve as a symbol and actual  
21       representation of the history and cultural heritage of the state.

22               ~~(2)~~ (4) To assist in research for and promote the publication of appropriate  
23       materials concerning the governor's mansion and its contents and grounds and the  
24       history and significance thereof, and to coordinate and guide any such activity by  
25       other state and local agencies.

26               ~~(3)~~ (5)(a) To enter into loan agreements, subject to the approval of the  
27       governor, for the loan of any item that is not owned by the state and that is to be  
28       housed in the governor's mansion or located on its grounds and for the loan of any

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1 item owned or controlled by another state agency which is to be housed in the  
2 governor's mansion or located on its grounds.

3 (b) Any item that is the subject of a loan agreement shall be included in the  
4 property inventory of the governor's mansion as required by R.S. 39:324.

5 ~~(c) Any item that is the subject of a loan agreement shall be covered by~~  
6 ~~adequate insurance through the office of risk management to insure repair or~~  
7 ~~replacement. The commission shall participate in the state's risk management~~  
8 ~~program and provide for such coverage through the program.~~

9 ~~(4)~~ (6) To create a program for annual audit, spot-check inventory, and  
10 post-audit functions for the protection of all items contained in the inventory that are  
11 owned by the state or on loan to the state and that are housed in the governor's  
12 mansion or located on its grounds.

13 (7) To provide the office of risk management in the division of  
14 administration with a property inventory for the assessment of adequate insurance  
15 through the office of risk management to insure the repair or replacement of items  
16 housed in the governor's mansion or located on its grounds, including items that are  
17 not owned by the state.

18 ~~(5)~~ (8) To provide a procedure for receiving inventory items at the end of a  
19 governor's term and for turning over the inventory items to the incoming governor's  
20 spouse or designee.

21 (9) To assist and advise in the orderly transition from one governor to his  
22 successor with respect to all matters within the jurisdiction of the commission.

23 ~~(6)~~ (10) To monitor public ~~and private~~ areas and grounds of the governor's  
24 mansion to ensure proper maintenance and repair.

25 B.(1) Meetings of the commission shall be exempt from the provisions of  
26 R.S. 42:11 et seq.

27 (2) Records of the commission shall be exempt from the provisions of R.S.  
28 44:1 et seq.

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

1 §4. Structure of executive branch of state government

2 \* \* \*

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

9 \* \* \*

10 (36) Louisiana Governor's Mansion Advisory Commission (R.S. 25:1011 et  
11 seq.).

12 \* \* \*

13 Section 3. R.S. 42:17(E) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

14 §17. Exceptions to open meetings

15 \* \* \*

16 E. The provisions of this Chapter shall not apply to meetings of the  
17 Louisiana Governor's Mansion Advisory Commission.

18 Section 4. R.S. 44:4(64) and 4.1(B)(40) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

19 §4. Applicability

20 This Chapter shall not apply:

21 \* \* \*

22 (64) To records of the Louisiana Governor's Mansion Advisory Commission.

23 §4.1. Exceptions

24 \* \* \*

25 B. The legislature further recognizes that there exist exceptions, exemptions,  
26 and limitations to the laws pertaining to public records throughout the revised  
27 statutes and codes of this state. Therefore, the following exceptions, exemptions, and

1 limitations are hereby continued in effect by incorporation into this Chapter by  
2 citation:

3 \* \* \*

4 (40) R.S. 25:1014.

5 Section 5. R.S. 25:1016 is hereby repealed.

6 Section 6. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to  
7 arrange in numerical order the provisions of R.S. 44:4.1(B) as amended by this Act.

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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 799 Original

2024 Regular Session

St. Blanc

**Abstract:** Provides for the La. Governor's Mansion Advisory Commission membership and duties and provides an exception for public records and meetings of the committee.

Present law provides for the La. Governor's Mansion Commission (commission) as an agency in the office of the governor, for the protection and enhancement of the governor's mansion, its contents, furnishings, and grounds to ensure a continuum in the appearance, the preservation of contents, furnishings, and surrounding areas of the governor's mansion consistent with the historical significance and importance of the governor's mansion.

Proposed law renames the commission the La. Governor's Mansion Advisory Commission and limits the role of the commission so as to only make recommendations within the scope of its stated purpose.

Present law grants the commission jurisdiction over the public and private areas of the governor's mansion and grounds and defines the public areas as the first floor, the stairwell in the rotunda, the state wing of the second floor, and all grounds in front and on each side of the mansion.

Proposed law limits the commission's jurisdiction to public areas only and excludes the state wing of the second floor as a public area.

Present law provides for the membership of the commission as follows:

- (1) If the governor is married, the governor's spouse or the spouse's designee; if the governor is unmarried, the governor or his designee.
- (2) A person appointed by the person serving pursuant to (1).
- (3) The person employed at the governor's mansion in the position known as the executive residence director. Proposed law instead provides for the chief of staff of the governor's spouse or, if the governor is unmarried, the executive residence director.
- (4) A member of a former governor's family appointed by the governor.

- (5) Three members appointed by the governor after consultation with staff employed at the governor's mansion. Proposed law removes the requirement that the governor consult with staff employed at the mansion prior to appointment of the three members.

Present law provides for the appointed members of the commission to serve staggered 5-year terms. Proposed law instead provides for the appointed members to serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

Present law provides that no improvement, renovation, redecoration, or enhancement of the public or private areas and grounds of the governor's mansion shall be made without the prior approval of the commission, including any painting, renovation, non-appliance repair, redecoration, or significant movement of or rearrangement of furniture, artwork, antique pieces, vases, or other items in the public areas.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law provides several powers and duties of the commission, including the power to enter loan agreement for the loan of any item not owned by the state or owned by another state agency to be housed in the governor's mansion or located on the grounds. Proposed law requires the governor's approval to enter into such a loan agreement.

Present law requires any item that is the subject of a loan agreement to be covered by adequate insurance through the office of risk management to insure repair or replacement and requires the commission to participate in the state's risk management program and provide for such coverage through the program. Proposed law instead requires the commission to provide the office of risk management with a property inventory for the assessment of adequate insurance through the office to insure the repair or replacement of items housed in the governor's mansion or located on its grounds, including any item that is not owned by the state.

Present law authorizes the commission to create a program for annual audit, spot-check inventory, and post-audit functions for the protection of all items contained in an inventory of movable property. Proposed law instead provides for the program to apply only to items located in the mansion owned by the state or on loan to the state housed in the governor's mansion or located on its grounds.

Proposed law adds the following powers and duties of the commission:

- (1) To make recommendations relative to improvements, renovation, redecoration, or enhancement of the governor's mansion.
- (2) To hold meetings as necessary, which shall be held at the governor's mansion.
- (3) To assist and advise in the orderly transition from a governor to his successor with respect to all matters within the jurisdiction of the commission.

Proposed law exempts meetings of the commission from the Open Meetings Law.

Proposed law exempts records of the commission from the Public Records Law.

Present law provides that the commission, either directly or through a foundation established to aid the commission in a philanthropic manner, may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of any private or public funds in the form of donations of money, grants, property, or personal services from individuals, corporations, and governments to achieve the purposes of the commission subject to rules and regulations adopted by the commission.

Proposed law repeals present law.

(Amends the heading of Ch. 23 of Title 25 of L.R.S. and R.S. 25:1011, 1012, 1013(A)(3) and (5) and (B), and 1014 and R.S. 36:4(B)(36); Adds R.S. 42:17(E) and R.S. 44:4(64) and 4.1(B)(40); Repeals R.S. 25:1016)