

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 237 (HB 799)

2024 Regular Session

St. Blanc

Existing law establishes an agency in the office of the governor for the purpose of 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.

Prior law named the commission the La. Governor's Mansion Commission.

New law renames the commission the La. Governor's Mansion Advisory Commission and limits its authority to making recommendations within the scope of its stated purpose.

Prior law granted the commission jurisdiction over the public and private areas of the governor's mansion and grounds and defined 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.

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

Existing 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) A member of a former governor's family appointed by the governor.

Prior law provided for the following additional members of the commission:

- (1) The person employed at the governor's mansion in the position known as the executive residence director.
- (2) Three members appointed by the governor after consultation with staff employed at the governor's mansion.

New law instead provides for the following additional members of the commission:

- (1) The chief of staff of the governor's spouse or, if the governor is unmarried, the executive residence director.
- (2) Three members appointed by the governor, without the requirement that the governor consult with staff employed at the mansion prior to appointment of the three members.

Prior law provided for the appointed members of the commission to serve staggered 5-year terms.

New law instead provides for the appointed members to serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

Prior law prohibited improvement, renovation, redecoration, or enhancement of the public or private areas and grounds of the governor's mansion without 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.

New law repeals prior law.

Existing law provides several powers and duties of the commission, including the power to enter into a 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.

New law requires the governor's approval to enter into such a loan agreement.

Prior law required that any item that was the subject of a loan agreement be covered by adequate insurance through the office of risk management to insure repair or replacement. Required the commission to participate in the state's risk management program and provided for such coverage through the program.

New 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.

Existing law authorizes the commission to create a program for annual audit, spot-check inventory, and post-audit functions for the protection of certain items.

Prior law applied the program to all items contained in an inventory of movable property.

New law instead provides for the program to apply only to items that are owned by the state or on loan to the state and that are housed in the governor's mansion or located on its grounds.

New 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.

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

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

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

New law repeals prior law.

Effective upon signature of governor (May 23, 2024).

(Amends the heading of Ch. 23 of Title 25 of L.R.S. of 1950 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. 44:4.1(B)(40); Repeals R.S. 25:1016)