

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 515

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

LIABILITY: Provides relative to suits against the state and state officials and employees

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:5108.1(B)(3), R.S. 42:1441.1, and Code of Civil Procedure  
3 Art. 1001, relative to suits against the state, state agencies, or political subdivisions;  
4 to provide relative to liability for acts of public employees; to provide with respect  
5 to the indemnification of officers and employees of the state; to provide relative to  
6 limitation of liability for persons not designated state officials, officers, or  
7 employees; to provide relative to certain processes and time periods; to provide  
8 relative to the delay for answering; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 13:5108.1(B)(3) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11 §5108.1. Indemnification of officers and employees of the state; civil rights;  
12 representation by attorney general

13 \* \* \*

14 B. Coverage process.

15 \* \* \*

16 (3) If the attorney general concludes that the covered individual was engaged  
17 in the performance of the duties of his office or employment with the state at the  
18 time the events that form the basis of the cause of action happened and that the  
19 covered individual was ~~free of criminal conduct~~ not engaged in criminal conduct,  
20 then the attorney general shall provide a defense to the covered individual. If the  
21 attorney general concludes that the covered individual was not engaged in the

1 performance of the duties of his office or employment with the state at the time the  
 2 events that form the basis of the cause of action happened or that the employee was  
 3 engaged in criminal conduct, then the attorney general shall not provide a defense  
 4 to the covered individual. Such a decision shall be communicated in writing to the  
 5 covered individual and the head of the department of the state in which the individual  
 6 is employed within ~~ten~~ thirty working days of delivery of the petition to the attorney  
 7 general. It is sufficient notice if the communication is sent properly addressed to the  
 8 covered individual, either at his place of work, his home, or any other place where  
 9 he may be found, by United States Postal Service, third party commercial carrier for  
 10 no more than three day delivery, facsimile, or electronic mail and to his departmental  
 11 employer.

12 \* \* \*

13 Section 2. R.S. 42:1441.1 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:  
 14 §1441.1. Nonimposition of master-servant liability on state by Civil Code Article  
 15 2320 and other laws for torts of persons not designated state officials,  
 16 officers, or employees ~~by R.S. 13:5108.2~~

17 Civil Code Article 2320 and other laws imposing liability on a master for the  
 18 offenses and quasi offenses of his servant shall not extend or apply to and shall not  
 19 impose liability on the state for the offenses and quasi offenses of any person who  
 20 is not expressly specified by ~~R.S. 13:5108.2(A)~~ R.S. 13:5108.1 to be an official,  
 21 officer, or employee of the state entitled to indemnification ~~under R.S. 13:5108.2.~~

22 Section 3. Code of Civil Procedure Article 1001 is hereby amended and reenacted  
 23 to read as follows:

24 Art. 1001. Delay for answering  
 25 ~~A.~~ A. Except as provided in Paragraph B of this Article, a defendant shall file  
 26 his answer within fifteen days after service of citation upon him, except as otherwise  
 27 provided by law.  
 28 B.(1) If the attorney general concludes that his office is obligated to provide  
 29 a defense to a covered individual pursuant to R.S. 13:5108.1, the state of Louisiana,

1 a state agency, or a state official, officer, or employee sued in the course and scope  
2 of his employment with the state shall file his answer within sixty days after service  
3 of citation.

4 (2) If the attorney general concludes that his office is not obligated to  
5 provide a defense to a covered individual pursuant to R.S. 13:5108.1, the defendant  
6 shall file his answer within fifteen days of the attorney general issuing his written  
7 decision as required by R.S. 13:5108.1.

8 C. When an exception is filed prior to answer and is overruled or referred to  
9 the merits, or is sustained and an amendment of the petition ordered, the answer shall  
10 be filed within ten days after the exception is overruled or referred to the merits, or  
11 ten days after service of the amended petition.

12 D. The court may grant additional time for answering.

---

#### 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)]

---

HB 515 Engrossed

2019 Regular Session

Garofalo

**Abstract:** Provides relative to the provision of a defense for defendants in suits against the state, state officials, and employees, specifies who is an official, officer, or employee of the state, and provides for the delays for answering such suits.

Present law provides relative to coverage and indemnification of state officials and employees for certain acts. Present law provides that if the attorney general concludes that the covered individual was engaged in the performance of the duties of his office or employment with the state at the time the events that form the basis of the cause of action happened and that the covered individual was free of criminal conduct, then the attorney general shall provide a defense to the covered individual.

Proposed law retains present law but provides that if the attorney general concludes that the covered individual was not engaged in criminal conduct, then the attorney general shall provide a defense to the covered individual.

Present law provides that the decision of the attorney general shall be communicated in writing to the covered individual and the head of the department of the state in which the individual is employed within 10 working days of delivery of the petition to the attorney general.

Proposed law retains present law but changes 10 days to 30 days.

Present law provides that present law imposing liability on a master for the offenses and quasi offenses of his servant shall not apply to and shall not impose liability on the state for

the offenses and quasi offenses of any person who is not expressly specified by present law to be an official, officer, or employee of the state entitled to indemnification.

Proposed law retains present law and replaces incorrect citations.

Present law provides that a defendant shall file his answer within 15 days after service of citation upon him, except as otherwise provided by present law.

Proposed law retains present law but changes the delay for filing an answer from 15 days to 30 days from service of citation when the attorney general is obligated to provide a defense, and 15 days from written notice when the attorney general is not obligated to provide a defense.

(Amends R.S. 13:5108.1(B)(3), R.S. 42:1441.1, and C.C.P. Art. 1001)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure to the original bill:

1. Change the general delay for filing an answer from proposed law 30 days to present law 15 days.
2. Add provisions authorizing the defendant 30 days from service of citation to file an answer if the attorney general is obligated to provide a defense.
3. Add provisions authorizing a defendant to file an answer 15 days from issuance of written notice that the attorney general is not obligated to provide a defense.