

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 195

BY REPRESENTATIVE SELDERS

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

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: Adds statewide civilian emergency dispatchers to the definition of "first responders" for certain purposes

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 23:1017.1(6) and R.S. 29:739(C) and to enact R.S. 29:723(20),  
3 relative to first responders; to provide for emergency assistance and preparedness;  
4 to expand the definition of first responders to include civilian emergency dispatchers;  
5 to provide for a definition of civilian emergency dispatchers; and to provide for  
6 related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 23:1017.1(6) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

9 §1017.1. Definitions

10 Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following words and  
11 terms, when used in this Part, shall have the following meanings:

12 \* \* \*

13 (6) "First responder" means a volunteer engaged in activities involving the  
14 Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness pursuant to  
15 R.S. 29:721 et seq., and first responders as defined in R.S. 40:1231 including but not  
16 limited to medical personnel, emergency and medical technicians, volunteer firemen,  
17 auxiliary law enforcement officers, civilian emergency dispatchers as defined by  
18 R.S. 29:723(1) and members of the Civil Air Patrol.

19 \* \* \*

1 Section 2. R.S. 29:739(C) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 29:723(20) is  
2 hereby enacted to read as follows:

3 §723. Definitions

4 As used in this Chapter:

5 \* \* \*

6 (20) "Civilian emergency dispatcher" means an emergency response operator  
7 or emergency services dispatcher who provides communication support services for  
8 an agency by responding to requests for assistance in emergencies, including any  
9 other emergency response personnel employed by an agency.

10 \* \* \*

11 §739. Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact

12 \* \* \*

13 C. Definitions

14 As used in this Section, "first responder" refers to those individuals who in  
15 the early stages of an incident are responsible for the protection and preservation of  
16 life, property, evidence, and the environment, including emergency response  
17 providers as defined in Section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.  
18 101), as well as civilian emergency dispatchers as defined by R.S. 29:723(1),  
19 emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works, and other skilled  
20 support personnel, such as equipment operators that provide immediate support  
21 services during prevention, response, and recovery operations consistent with  
22 Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8.

23 \* \* \*

24 Section 3. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to  
25 arrange in alphabetical order and renumber the definitions provided in R.S. 29:723.

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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 195 Original

2021 Regular Session

Selders

**Abstract:** Adds civilian emergency dispatchers to the definition of "first responder" for purposes of emergency assistance and preparedness and provides a definition for "civilian emergency dispatchers".

Present law (R.S. 23:1017.1(6)) provides a definition of "first responder" as meaning a volunteer engaged in activities involving the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness pursuant to present law (R.S. 29:721 et seq.) and first responders as defined in present law (R.S. 40:1231) including but not limited to medical personnel, emergency and medical technicians, volunteer firemen, auxiliary law enforcement officers, and members of the Civil Air Patrol.

Present law (R.S. 29:739(C)) provides that "first responder" refers to those individuals who in the early stages of an incident are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence, and the environment, including emergency response providers as defined in Section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101), as well as emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works, and other skilled support personnel, such as equipment operators that provide immediate support services during prevention, response, and recovery operations consistent with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8.

Proposed law retains present law and adds "civilian emergency dispatchers" to the definition of "first responder".

Proposed law defines "civilian emergency dispatchers" as meaning an emergency response operator or emergency services dispatcher who provides communication support services for an agency by responding to requests for assistance in emergencies, including any other emergency response personnel employed by an agency.

Proposed law authorizes the Louisiana State Law Institute to arrange in alphabetical order and renumber the definitions provided in R.S. 29:723.

(Amends R.S. 23:1017.1(6) and R.S. 29:739(C); Adds R.S. 29:723(20))