

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 770

BY REPRESENTATIVE ST. BLANC

GOVERNOR: Creates and provides for the Louisiana Governor's Mansion Commission

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Chapter 23 of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised
3 of R.S. 25:1011 through 1016, and R.S.36:4(S), relative to boards and commissions;
4 to establish the Louisiana Governor's Mansion Commission; to provide for purpose
5 of the commission; to provide for jurisdiction; to provide for membership; to provide
6 for powers and duties; to provide for funding and donations; and to provide for
7 related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. Chapter 23 of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be
10 comprised of R.S. 25:1011 through 1016, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §1011. Establishment; purpose

12 The Louisiana Governor's Mansion Commission, hereafter in this section
13 referred to as the commission, is hereby created and established as an agency of the
14 state, for purposes of protection and enhancement of the governor's mansion, its
15 contents, furnishings, and grounds. The purpose of the commission is to ensure a
16 continuum in the appearance, the preservation of contents, furnishings, and
17 surrounding areas of the governor's mansion consistent with the historical
18 significance and importance of the governor's mansion.

19 §1012. Jurisdictional area

1 The commission shall have jurisdiction over the public as well as private
2 areas of the governor's mansion and grounds. Public areas shall consist of the first
3 floor, the stairwell in the rotunda, the state wing of the second floor, and all grounds
4 in front and on each side of the mansion. The private areas of the governor's
5 mansion and grounds shall be all other areas within the mansion and grounds not
6 defined as public.

7 §1013. Membership; appointment; terms; officers; compensation

8 A. The commission shall be composed of the following nonpartisan
9 members:

10 (1) The governor's spouse or his designee.

11 (2) The governor's spouse shall appoint one member.

12 (3) The Executive Residence Director.

13 (4) The governor shall appoint a member of a former first family from a
14 family at least two administrations prior to his election as governor.

15 (5) The governor shall appoint three other members.

16 B. Terms of the five appointed members are five years. However, the initial
17 terms of such members shall be as follows: one member shall serve a one-year term,
18 one member shall serve a two-year term, one member shall serve a three-year term,
19 and one member shall serve a four-year term, and one member shall serve a five-year
20 term, all as determined by lot at the first meeting of the commission.

21 C. The governor's spouse or his designee shall serve as the chairman of the
22 commission. For the prompt and efficient transaction of business, the commission
23 may create from its membership an executive committee consisting of a chairperson
24 and such additional members as the commission determines. Other advisory and
25 cooperative committees may be appointed by the chairman.

26 D. Members shall serve without compensation; however, a member may be
27 reimbursed by his respective agency for any out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the
28 performance of his duties on the commission.

1 §1014. Commission powers, duties, and responsibilities; approval of changes
2 required

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

9 B. In addition, the commission shall have the following powers, duties,
10 functions, and responsibilities:

11 (1) To promote a greater understanding and awareness of the importance and
12 significance of the governor's mansion and enhance and maintain the appearance,
13 furnishings, and surroundings thereof so that it may serve as a symbol and actual
14 representation of the history and cultural heritage of the state.

15 (2) To assist in research for and promote the publication of appropriate
16 materials concerning the governor's mansion and its contents and grounds and the
17 history and significance thereof, and to coordinate and guide any such activity by
18 other state and local agencies.

19 (3)(a) To enter into agreements for the loan to the state of any item which is
20 not owned by the state but which is to be included in the physical contents and
21 furnishings of the governor's mansion or for loan to the governor's mansion of items
22 owned by other state agencies.

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

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

1 (4) To create a program for annual audit, spot-check inventory, and post-
2 audit functions for the protection of all items contained in the inventory.

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

6 (6) To monitor public and private areas and grounds of the governor's
7 mansion to insure proper maintenance and repair. To provide for proper
8 maintenance and repair, the commission shall make recommendations therefor to the
9 office of state buildings and grounds which shall be required to perform such repairs
10 in a timely manner. However, any maintenance or repairs the cost of which is
11 estimated by the office of state buildings and grounds to be in excess of one hundred
12 thousand dollars shall be subject to legislative budget approval prior to such
13 maintenance being performed or repair being made.

14 (7) To institute civil litigation as necessary to enjoin a governor who
15 attempts to institute any improvement, renovation, redecoration, enhancement,
16 painting, repair, or movement or rearrangement of furniture in violation of
17 Subsection A of this Section.

18 §1015. Cooperation by other state entities

19 All departments, commissions, boards, agencies, officers, and institutions of
20 the state and all subdivisions thereof shall cooperate with the commission in carrying
21 out the powers and purposes of this Chapter.

22 §1016. Funding; donations and grants

23 The commission may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of any private or public
24 funds in the form of donations of money, grants, property, or personal services from
25 individuals, corporations, and governments to achieve the purposes of this Chapter
26 subject to rules and regulations adopted by the commission.

1 Section 2. R.S. 36:4(S) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

2 §4. Structure of executive branch of state government

3 * * *

4 S. Louisiana Governor's Mansion Commission (R.S. 25:1101 et seq.).

5 * * *

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 770 Original

2022 Regular Session

St. Blanc

Abstract: Establishes the Governor's Mansion Commission.

Establishment and Purpose

Proposed law provides for the establishment of the Governor's Mansion Commission for the protection and enhancement of the governor's mansion and its contents, furnishings, and grounds.

Jurisdiction

Proposed law provides the commission has jurisdiction over those areas of the governor's mansion which are public including: the first floor of the mansion, the stairwell in the rotunda, the state wing of the second floor of the mansion, and all the grounds in front and on each side of the mansion.

Proposed law provides all other areas are deemed as private.

Membership

Proposed law provides that the membership consists of the following:

- (1) The governor's spouse or designee.
- (2) An appointee of the governor's spouse.
- (3) The Executive Residence Director.
- (4) A member of a former first family.
- (5) Three designees appointed by the governor.

Proposed law provides that appointed members serve staggered five-year terms.

Proposed law provides the spouse or designee serves as chair of the commission.

Proposed law provides the commission may create an executive committee and other advisory and cooperative committees as appointed by the chair.

Proposed law provides that members serve without compensation but may be reimbursed by their respective agencies for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the performance of their duties on the commission.

Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities

Proposed law prohibits improvement, renovation, redecoration, or enhancements to the public areas without prior approval of the commission and specifically requires the approval of the commission prior to painting, renovations, non-appliance repairs, redecoration, or significant movement of or rearrangement of furniture, artwork, antique pieces, vases, and other items in public areas.

Proposed law provides that the commission assist in the research and promotion of publications regarding the governor's mansion.

Proposed law authorizes the commission to enter into agreements for the loan to the state of any item to be included in the contents and furnishings of the mansion.

Proposed law requires that such items be in the property inventory which is required by present law and requires that items be covered by adequate insurance through the office of risk management to insure proper repair or replacement.

Proposed law requires the commission to participate in the state's risk management program for such coverage.

Proposed law provides for the commission to establish procedures for the inventory of physical assets contained in the governor's mansion and an annual audit, spot-check inventory, and a procedure for turning over the inventory items to the incoming governor's spouse or designee.

Proposed law provides that the commission monitor the public and private areas and grounds for needed maintenance and repairs and requires the office of state buildings and grounds to perform such maintenance and make such repairs in a timely manner after a recommendation by the commission to do so.

Proposed law provides that any maintenance or repair which is estimated to cost more than \$100,000 by the office of state buildings and grounds is subject to legislative budget approval prior to such maintenance or repair.

Proposed law authorizes the commission to enjoin a governor who institutes any improvement, renovation, redecoration, enhancement, painting, repairs, or movement or rearrangement of furniture not approved by the commission.

(Adds R.S. 25:1011-1016 and R.S. 36:4(S))