

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 the
5 membership and powers, duties, and functions of the commission; to authorize the
6 commission to establish advisory committees; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

10 CHAPTER 23. LOUISIANA GOVERNOR'S MANSION COMMISSION

11 §1011. Establishment; purpose

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

1 §1012. Jurisdictional area

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

8 §1013. Membership; appointment; terms; officers; compensation9 A. The commission shall be composed as follows:

10 (1)(a) If the governor is married, the governor's spouse or the spouse's
11 designee.

12 (b) If the governor is unmarried, the governor or his designee.

13 (2) A person appointed by the person serving on the commission pursuant
14 to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

15 (3) The person employed at the governor's mansion in the position known
16 as the executive residence director.

17 (4) A member of a former first family appointed by the governor.

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 Paragraph (A)(2), (4), and (5) of this Section shall be five
28 years.

1 C.(1) The person serving on the commission pursuant to Paragraph (A)(1)
2 of this Section shall serve as the chairman of the commission, and the members of
3 commission may provide for other officers of the commission as deemed necessary.

4 (2) The commission may create an executive committee from among its
5 membership to ensure the prompt and efficient conduct of the powers, duties, and
6 functions of the commission.

7 (3) The commission may establish and provide for advisory committees to
8 advise and assist the commission in the performance of its duties.

9 D. Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but may
10 receive reimbursement for expenses directly related to service on the commission in
11 accordance with law.

12 §1014. Commission powers, duties, and responsibilities; approval of changes
13 required

14 A. No improvement, renovation, redecoration, or enhancement of the public
15 or private areas and grounds of the governor's mansion shall be made without the
16 prior approval of the commission. Commission approval shall be required prior to
17 any painting, renovation, non-appliance repair, redecoration, or significant
18 movement of or rearrangement of furniture, artwork, antique pieces, vases, or other
19 items in the public areas.

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

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

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

1 (3)(a) To enter into loan agreements for the loan of any item that is not
2 owned by the state and that is to be housed in the governor's mansion or located on
3 its grounds and for the loan of any item owned or controlled by another state agency
4 which is to be housed in the governor's mansion or located on its grounds.

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

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

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

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

16 (6) To monitor public and private areas and grounds of the governor's
17 mansion to insure proper maintenance and repair.

18 §1015. Cooperation by other state entities

19 A. The office of state buildings and grounds within the division of
20 administration shall timely perform or provide for all requests for maintenance and
21 repair to the governor's mansion and its grounds made by the commission.

22 B. All departments, commissions, boards, agencies, officers, and institutions
23 of the state and all subdivisions thereof shall cooperate with the commission in
24 carrying out the powers and purposes of this Chapter.

25 §1016. Funding; donations and grants

26 The commission, either directly or through a foundation established to aid the
27 commission in a philanthropic manner, may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of any
28 private or public funds in the form of donations of money, grants, property, or

Proposed law prohibits improvement, renovation, redecoration, or enhancements to the public or private areas without prior approval of the commission. Requires commission approval 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 of items housed in or located on the grounds 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 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 post-audit functions for the protection of all items contained in the inventory. Requires the commission to provide a procedure for turning over the inventory items to the incoming governor's spouse or designee.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall monitor the public and private areas and grounds for needed maintenance and repairs. Requires the office of state buildings and grounds to timely perform maintenance and repairs requested by the commission.

Proposed law authorizes the commission, directly or through a foundation, to solicit, use, and dispose of funds and property.

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill:

1. Specify that the commission is within the office of the governor.
2. Change board membership.
3. Provide that changes to the private areas of the mansion are subject to commission approval.
4. Remove requirement for legislative approval of maintenance or repairs costing more than \$100,000.
5. Remove authority for commission to pursue civil litigation enjoining a governor from instituting changes to the mansion that violate proposed law.
6. Provide that the commissions solicitation of donations may be indirectly through a foundation.