AN ACT

To enact Chapter 23 of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 25:1011 through 1016, and R.S.36:4(S), relative to boards and commissions; to establish the Louisiana Governor's Mansion Commission; to provide for the membership and powers, duties, and functions of the commission; to authorize the commission to establish advisory committees; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

CHAPTER 23. LOUISIANA GOVERNOR'S MANSION COMMISSION

§1011. Establishment; purpose

The Louisiana Governor's Mansion Commission, hereafter in this Chapter referred to as the commission, is hereby created and established as an agency in the office of the governor, for purposes of protection and enhancement of the governor's mansion, its contents, furnishings, and grounds. The purpose of the commission is 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.
§1012. Jurisdictional area

The commission shall have jurisdiction over the public as well as private areas of the governor's mansion and grounds. Public areas shall consist of 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. The private areas of the governor's mansion and grounds shall be all other areas within the mansion and grounds not specifically described as a public area in this Section.

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

A. The commission shall be composed as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

(5) Three members appointed by the governor after consultation with staff employed at the governor's mansion.

B. (1) The initial terms of the members appointed pursuant to Paragraphs (A)(2), (4), and (5) of this Section shall be as determined by lot at the first meeting of the commission as follows: one member shall serve an initial term of one year; one member shall serve an initial term of two years; one member shall serve an initial term of three years; one member shall serve an initial term of four years; and one member shall serve an initial term of five years.

(2) After the initial term of office, the term of each of the members appointed pursuant to Paragraph (A)(2), (4), and (5) of this Section shall be five years.
C. (1) The person serving on the commission pursuant to Paragraph (A)(1) of this Section shall serve as the chairman of the commission, and the members of commission may provide for other officers of the commission as deemed necessary.

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

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

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

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

A. No improvement, renovation, redecoration, or enhancement of the public or private areas and grounds of the governor's mansion shall be made without the prior approval of the commission. Commission approval shall be required prior to 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.

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

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

(2) To assist in research for and promote the publication of appropriate materials concerning the governor's mansion and its contents and grounds and the history and significance thereof, and to coordinate and guide any such activity by other state and local agencies.
(3)(a) To enter into loan agreements for the loan of any item that is not owned by the state and that is to be housed in the governor's mansion or located on its grounds and for the loan of any item owned or controlled by another state agency which is to be housed in the governor's mansion or located on its grounds.

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

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

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

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

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

§1015. Cooperation by other state entities

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

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

§1016. Funding; donations and grants

The commission, either directly or through a foundation established to aid the commission in a philanthropic manner, may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of any private or public funds in the form of donations of money, grants, property, or
personal services from individuals, corporations, and governments to achieve the
purposes of this Chapter subject to rules and regulations adopted by the commission.

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

§4. Structure of executive branch of state government

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

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 Engrossed 2022 Regular Session St. Blanc


Proposed law creates the La. Governor's Mansion Commission, within the governor's office, for the protection and enhancement of the governor's mansion and its contents, furnishings, and grounds.

Proposed law provides that 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 that commission membership consists of the following:

(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. Such member shall serve as chair of the commission.

(2) A person appointed by the person serving on the commission pursuant to (1) above.

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

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

(5) Three members appointed by the governor after consultation with staff employed at the governor's mansion.

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

Proposed law provides the commission may create an executive committee and other advisory committees.

Proposed law provides that members serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses directly related to their service on the commission.
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 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.


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.