
DIGEST

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HB 770 Reengrossed

2022 Regular Session

St. Blanc

Abstract: Establishes the La. Governor's Mansion Commission.

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 governor's 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 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.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide that a member of a former governor's family, rather than a former first family, shall be appointed to the commission.