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## DIGEST

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HB 526 Original

2023 Regular Session

Zeringue

**Abstract:** Establishes and provides for the office of resilience, a chief resilience officer, an Interagency Resilience Coordination Team, and a Louisiana Resilience Task Force to coordinate and align state policies, plans, budgets, and resources regarding resilience from, and risk mitigation for, natural disasters and environmental threats.

Present law provides for the structure of the executive branch of state government.

Proposed law adds the office of resilience to the list of agencies within the office of the governor.

Proposed law establishes the office of resilience to coordinate and provide strategic direction for state resilience initiatives, maintain a statewide resilience report, establish an interagency resilience coordination team, and provide technical assistance to integrate statewide resilience goals.

Proposed law creates a chief resilience officer (CRO) to head the office of resilience. The CRO is appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. The CRO serves at the pleasure of, and reports directly to, the governor. The CRO must hire staff and manage the office and may request assistance from other agency personnel.

Proposed law requires the CRO also do the following:

- (1) Review and reconcile state agency comments on federally sponsored resilience and risk mitigation activities to establish and present an official state position.
- (2) Represent the policy and consensus viewpoint of the state at the federal, regional, state, and local levels with respect to resilience and risk mitigation.
- (3) Monitor and seek available federal and private funds consistent with the purposes of this Part.
- (4) Coordinate with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) for emergency management and disaster response.

Proposed law provides that the governor, acting through the CRO, shall:

- (1) Coordinate state agency powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities relative to reducing

- risk and protecting communities, businesses, vital infrastructure, and the environment, including flood risk mitigation and disaster housing.
- (2) Coordinate all state departmental budget requests for programs and projects pertaining to resilience and risk mitigation.
  - (3) Appraise the adequacy of statutory and administrative mechanisms for coordinating the state's policies and programs at both the intrastate and interstate levels with respect to resilience and risk mitigation.
  - (4) Appraise the adequacy of federal, regional, state, and local programs to achieve the policies and meet the goals of the state with respect to resilience and risk mitigation.
  - (5) Coordinate and focus federal involvement in Louisiana with respect to resilience and risk mitigation.
  - (6) Provide the official state recommendations to the legislature and Congress with respect to policies, programs, and coordinating mechanisms relative to resilience and risk mitigation.
  - (7) Assist with the state's planning efforts including the Coastal Master Plan, the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, and the Statewide Watershed Management Plan, to ensure the incorporation and alignment of the state's resilience goals and objectives into a unified, proactive, pre-disaster approach to adaptation and long-term resilience.
  - (8) Take such other actions not inconsistent with law as are necessary to perform the duties, functions, and responsibilities of the chief resilience officer.

Proposed law requires the office of resilience to draft a statewide resilience report, to be updated and provided to the legislature annually by March 1st. Specifies that the report must include:

- (1) Articulation of the state's resilience goals and objectives.
- (2) Utilization of best available science, including a range of future projections, to identify and implement policies, projects, and programs that achieve the state's resilience goals and objectives.
- (3) Prioritization of agency-identified adaptation actions based on a vulnerability assessment of risks to agency mission areas, assets, services, and populations served from multiple environmental threats.
- (4) Description of agency strategic actions.

Proposed law requires that each state agency appoint a resilience officer to work with the CRO, serve on the Interagency Resilience Coordination Team, and contribute to the annual report.

Proposed law establishes an Interagency Resilience Coordination Team to maintain awareness, communication, and alignment with regard to the state's resilience and risk mitigation needs, progress, and priorities and to oversee development of the statewide resilience report.

Proposed law requires that the Interagency Resilience Coordination Team be comprised of the CRO as chair and the state agency resilience officers. The CRO is required to convene the coordination team by Oct. 1, 2023, and they are to meet at least four times a year.

Proposed law establishes a La. Resilience Task Force to provide strategic direction to resilience efforts across the state and to make recommendations to the La. Office of Resilience. The task force

shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) The chief resilience officer, who shall serve as chair and shall represent the views of the Interagency Resilience Coordination Team.
- (2) The director of the GOHSEP or his designee.
- (3) The Governor's Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities or his designee.
- (4) The commissioner of the division of administration or his designee.
- (5) The commissioner of insurance or his designee.
- (6) The secretary of the Dept. of Transportation and Development.
- (7) The executive director of the Police Jury Association or his designee.
- (8) The executive director of the Parish Presidents Association or his designee.
- (9) The speaker of the House of Representatives or his designee.
- (10) The president of the Senate or his designee.

Proposed law requires the task force to meet quarterly and at the call of the chairman.

(Adds R.S. 36:4(B)(37) and R.S. 49:220.41-220.46)