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## DIGEST

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HB 772 Original

2024 Regular Session

Zeringue

**Abstract:** Provides relative to cemetery emergency assistance and disaster relief.

Present law provides for the Statewide Cemetery Response Task Force.

Proposed law changes the name of the task force.

Present law provides that the task force shall be activated at the request of the director of the GOHSEP when the state or a parish has issued an emergency declaration and there is evidence that damage has occurred to a cemetery.

Proposed law retains present law but changes the designated person to activate the task force to the elected chairman of the task force.

Proposed law provides relative to the powers and duties of the task force. Provides exemptions to the task force relative to the vital records registry.

Proposed law requires that the task force be subject to the confidentiality mandates relative to the La. Repository for Unidentified and Missing Persons Information Program.

Proposed law requires the task force to retain and test materials relative to autopsies or any successor law thereof, pursuant to an order of a court of competent jurisdiction or to consent to right of disposing of remains in present law.

Proposed law provides the task force discretion to direct deviations from requirements to repair and restore grave spaces or wall vaults to original condition in present law.

Proposed law provides the task force a right of action and a cause of action to file suit in its own name against private parties for the recovery of federal cemetery recovery funds not allocated according to federal law, regulation, and policy and against individuals or juridical persons for specific performance of the recovery and repair work for which they received such funds.

Proposed law authorizes the task force to draft and pass regulations to effectuate the provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law requires the task force to provide for the permanent archiving of its final identification records.

Proposed law authorizes the task force to be activated at the discretion of its chairman to direct or supplement efforts in the search for human remains associated with cold case disinterments and mass fatality events upon effectiveness of proposed law.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 29:726.4(A), (D), (E), and (F); Adds R.S. 29:726.4(I))