

SENATE BILL NO. 164

BY SENATOR MCMATH AND REPRESENTATIVE CARVER

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 23:1017.1(6) and R.S. 29:739(C) and to enact R.S. 29:723(21), relative to first responders; to expand the definition of "first responder" to include public works employees; to provide for a definition of "public works employee"; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 23:1017.1(6) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1017.1. Definitions

Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following words and terms, when used in this Part, shall have the following meanings:

* * *

(6) "First responder" means a volunteer engaged in activities involving the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness pursuant to R.S. 29:721 et seq., and first responders as defined in R.S. 29:723 including but not limited to medical personnel, emergency and medical technicians, volunteer firemen, auxiliary law enforcement officers, state agency essential workers, emergency service dispatchers, emergency response operators, electrical linemen as defined by R.S. 29:723, **public works employees as defined in R.S. 29:723**, and members of the Civil Air Patrol.

* * *

Section 2. R.S. 29:739(C) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 29:723(21) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

1 §723. Definitions

2 As used in this Chapter:

3 * * *

4 (21)(a) "Public works employee" means an employee of a municipal or
5 parish public works department who is responsible for the maintenance and
6 improvement of municipal or parish infrastructure. Public works employees
7 shall be considered first responders only in instances involving emergencies as
8 declared by the governor pursuant to R.S. 29:721 et seq.

9 (b) The term "first responder" may be displayed on the uniform of a
10 public works employee.

11 * * *

12 §739. Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact

13 * * *

14 C. Definitions

15 As used in this Section, "first responder" refers to those individuals who in
16 the early stages of an incident are responsible for the protection and preservation of
17 life, property, evidence, and the environment, including emergency response
18 providers as defined in Section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, 6 U.S.C.
19 101, as well as emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works,
20 and other skilled support personnel, such as equipment operators, ~~and~~ electrical
21 linemen, **and public works employees** that provide immediate support services
22 during prevention, response, and recovery operations consistent with Homeland
23 Security Presidential Directive 8.

24 * * *

25 Section 3. This Act shall be known as and may be cited as the "Shelby LaSalle Act".

26 Section 4. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to
27 renumber the definitions in R.S. 29:723 to ensure that the definitions are in alphabetical
28 order.

29 Section 5. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
30 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature

1 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
2 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
3 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____