
DIGEST

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Schexnayder

HB No. 1013

Abstract: Provides for the abolition of certain boards, commissions, authorities, and like entities; in some cases also abolishes the functions and responsibilities of the entity; in other cases provides that a different entity is responsible for the functions and responsibilities of the abolished entity.

Proposed law provides for the abolition of certain boards, commissions, authorities, and like entities; in some cases also abolishes the functions and responsibilities of the entity; in other cases provides that some other person or entity is responsible for the functions and responsibilities of the abolished entity, all as follows:

Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Area Development Zone Review Board: Present law establishes the board to evaluate the eligibility of applicants to receive tax benefits pursuant to a pilot program that provides specific tax incentives for heritage-based cottage industry located in the Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Area. Proposed law abolishes the board and its functions.

Broadband Advisory Council: Present law creates the council to serve as the central broadband planning body for the state and to communicate and coordinate with state, regional, and local agencies and private entities in order to develop a coordinated statewide broadband access and usage policy, consistent with homeland security and emergency response needs, policies, and systems. Proposed law abolishes the council and its functions and repeals present law.

Catfish Promotion and Research Program and Board: Present law creates the catfish promotion and research program to provide a voluntary method of raising revenues to be used for the purposes of developing markets for La. catfish and for funding research and educational activities for the La. catfish industry. Provides for assessments levied upon a majority vote of catfish farmers. Authorizes the board to adopt rules and regulations. Provides that the board directs the conducting of referenda and notifies the catfish farmers of the results. Authorizes the board to impose a civil penalty for failure to collect and remit assessments after a hearing and to institute civil proceedings to enforce its rulings. Proposed law abolishes the program and board. Requires the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry to transfer any remaining monies received by the La. Catfish Promotion and Research Board to the La. Agricultural Finance Authority for the purpose of catfish promotion.

Coastal Land Stewardship Authority Board of Directors: Present law creates the authority to provide for management and administration of certain immovable properties, servitudes, and easements acquired by the state in connection with the development, design, and implementation of coastal conservation, restoration, and protection plans and projects in a manner determined appropriate by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and consistent with any agreements entered into between the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and the federal government. Provides that the authority is administered by a board of directors. Proposed law abolishes the authority and the board and their functions.

Historic Cemetery Trust Fund Advisory Board: Present law creates the board to determine the need for an inventory of historic cemeteries and isolated graves to be regulated by the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and to maintain any such inventory, to adopt such rules, regulations, standards, and grant application procedures necessary to implement the funding provisions of present law (La. Historic Cemetery Preservation Act), and to establish priorities and criteria to be considered for grants. Proposed law abolishes the board and its functions.

Mississippi River Road Commission: Present law creates the commission with the purpose of preserving, enhancing, and promoting the Mississippi River Road as an historic, cultural, scenic, natural, and economic resource for the state. Proposed law abolishes the commission and its functions.

Systemic Initiatives Program Council: Present law establishes a program for the improvement of the quality of science and mathematics education through a committed and cooperative effort among agencies involved in higher education, elementary and secondary education, and the National Science Foundation. Requires the council to approve activities selected for program sponsorship and other projects and programs; establish and make available rules and procedures for the conduct of the program and the council; meet not less often than two times a year; employ and evaluate staff; and receive and approve the disbursement of all funds made available for the program. Authorizes the council to establish any permanent or temporary advisory bodies that the council deems helpful; establish any structure for the operation of the program, including committees of the council, that contributes to the efficient conduct of business; consider and recommend to the legislature, BESE, the Board of Regents or any other entity changes in law, regulation, or policy that the council deems necessary or useful to the improvement of mathematics or science education; and permit, notwithstanding present law (Ch. 15 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950), members of the council to participate in projects and programs and activities sponsored by the program, in accordance with rules adopted by the council with regard to such participation. Proposed law abolishes the council and its functions.

Tri-State Corridor Commission: Present law creates the commission to undertake and perform economic development, industrial development, and tourism development in the corridor and on behalf of the membership comprising those political subdivisions (city, town,

village, county, parish) within the boundaries of the commission's authority. Provides that the boundary of the commission is the geographical boundaries of the parish of Caddo in La. and the counties of Marion, Cass, and Bowie in Texas and Miller and Little River Counties in Arkansas. Authorizes the commission to receive monies, to levy and collect taxes other than ad valorem taxes, and to enter into cooperative agreements and arrangements. Proposed law abolishes the commission and its functions.

Proposed law provides that the property and funds, if any, of the entities abolished by proposed law shall be the property of the state and the state treasurer shall provide for the deposit of such funds in the state treasury to the credit of the state general fund, after deposit in the Bond Security and Redemption Fund as otherwise provided by present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:374(A)(2)(intro. para.) and R.S. 49:968(B)(3)(c); Repeals R.S. 3:558.1-558.13, R.S. 17:7(25) and 2751-2759, R.S. 25:933(2), 941, 1226.1(7), 1226.2, 1226.4(B)(1), and 1251-1255, R.S. 32:1751, R.S. 36:4(L)(2), 209(M)(2), (S), and (T), 610(M), 629(R), 651(D)(6), and 802.17, R.S. 51:955.1-955.4, and R.S. 56:901)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill.

1. Removes the following from proposed law thereby retaining their existence:
Ambulance Service District Commission and Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council.
2. Adds provisions abolishing the Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Area Development Zone Review Board and its functions.
3. Instead of transferring the functions of the Catfish Promotion and Research Board to the commissioner of agriculture and forestry, abolishes the Catfish Promotion and Research Program and Board and provides that the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry shall transfer any remaining monies received by the board to the La. Agricultural Finance Authority for the purpose of catfish promotion.