
DIGEST

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HB 335 Original

2018 Regular Session

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Abstract: Changes the membership of the La. Historical Records Advisory Bd. and designates the secretary of state rather than the director of state archives as the state historical records coordinator and designates the director of state archives rather than an appointee of the governor as the deputy state historical records coordinator.

Present law provides for the placement of the La. Historical Records Advisory Bd. (as established by Executive Order No. 08-62) in the Dept. of State. The executive order provides that the board is composed of 13 members appointed by the governor who, as much as practicable, shall be broadly representative of public and private archives, records offices, research institutions. Specifically, the board is comprised of the director of state archives or his designee, eight members with expertise in administration of government records, historical records, or archives; a representative of the Clerk of Court Assoc.; and three at-large members. Specifies that director of state archives chairs the board and serves as the state historical records coordinator and specifies that the deputy state historical records coordinator shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the governor.

Proposed law provides that the board shall consist of 15 members as follows:

- (1) The secretary of state or his designee who shall be the chairman of the board.
- (2) The director of state archives or his designee.
- (3) The state librarian or his designee.
- (4) One representative selected by La. Clerks of Court Assoc.
- (5) One representative selected by La. Municipal Assoc.
- (6) One representative selected by Police Jury Assoc. of La.
- (7) One representative selected by La. Sheriffs' Assoc.
- (8) One representative selected by La. Archives and Manuscripts Assoc.
- (9) One representative selected by La. Historical Assoc.
- (10) Six members appointed by the secretary of state, subject to Senate confirmation, who shall serve a term of office concurrent with secretary's term of office, and who shall have expertise

in one or more of the following fields: (a) administration of government or university records; (b) historical records; or (c) archives.

Proposed law provides that the board shall meet at regularly scheduled intervals and upon the call of the chairman. Specifies that members of the board shall serve without compensation.

Proposed law provides the Dept. of State shall provide support staff, facilities, and resources to the board, that the board shall comply with the national commission's Manual of Suggested Practices, and that the duties of the board shall include:

- (1) To sponsor and publish surveys regarding the conditions of and needs concerning historical records in this state.
- (2) To develop and solicit proposals for historical records projects to be undertaken by entities in this state or by the board with grants from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (national commission).
- (3) To review historical records projects proposed in this state and to make recommendations regarding such to the national commission.
- (4) To develop, revise, and submit the state's priorities for historical records projects to the national commission in accordance with the guidelines developed by the national commission.
- (5) To promote an understanding of the role and the value of historical records and recordkeeping.
- (6) To act in an advisory capacity to the division of archives, records management, and history within the Dept. of State and to other archival or records entities in the state.
- (7) To review the operation and progress of projects throughout the state which have been financed by grants from the national commission.

Proposed law provides that the secretary of state, or his designee, shall serve as the state historical records coordinator for the board with the following duties:

- (1) To prepare a report on the board's activities to be submitted annually to the national commission detailing the board's activities during the previous year, assessing the board's ongoing planning objectives, and providing all additional data or information necessary to comply with the national commission's guidelines.
- (2) To coordinate the board's efforts to assess and monitor the conditions of and needs concerning historical records in the state.
- (3) To serve as the project director or provide administrative oversight, or both, for grant

projects carried out by the board.

- (4) To assist the board in developing and sustaining statewide strategic planning regarding the preservation of historical records.
- (5) To solicit and receive applications for grant projects funded by the national commission, to manage the grant review process at the state level, and to forward rating sheets and summary recommendations to the national commission.
- (6) To provide information about national commission grants and board activities and priorities to entities and individuals within the state.
- (7) To serve as the liaison between the board and the national commission, and as the initial point of contact for state and local officials and agencies on matters relating to records grants.
- (8) Upon request of the national commission and when practicable, to review, grant proposals from other state historical records boards and applicants from outside the state.
- (9) To foster cooperation and communication among historical records repositories, other information agencies within the state, and the national commission.
- (10) To participate with other state historical records coordinators at regional and national meetings to discuss the national commission's work and the work of the state boards and seek solutions to common problems.

Proposed law further provides that the director of state archives or his designee shall act as the deputy state historical records coordinator for the board and shall assist the state historical records coordinator in executing the state historical records coordinator's duties and shall serve as the acting state historical records coordinator at the state historical records coordinator 's discretion.

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

(Amends R.S. 36:744(D); Adds R.S. 44:501-503)