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## DIGEST

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Ortego

HB No. 579

**Abstract:** Relative to the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL), provides that French shall be the working language of the council and its employees and authorizes it to use certain designations.

Present law creates the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) in the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism to preserve, promote, and develop La.'s French and Creole culture, heritage, and language. Includes among the purposes of CODOFIL overseeing development and expansion of the state's economic development and tourism activities designed to promote our French culture, heritage, and language and promoting, developing, and overseeing cultural and educational relations and exchanges within the state and between the state of La. and other countries, provinces, and states that share La.'s historical French heritage, culture, and language. Provides that council serves as the official state agency in all relations and exchanges between the state and other countries, provinces, and states enjoying membership or observer status in the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie and similar organizations.

Proposed law provides that the official working language of the council and its employees shall be French. Also authorizes the council to identify itself as "Office of Francophone Affairs" in English or "Agence des Affaires Francophones" in French, to reflect its educational, social, economic development, and diplomatic missions.

(Amends R.S. 25:651(A); Adds R.S. 25:651(D))