
DIGEST

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HB 268 Original

2020 Regular Session

Brass

Abstract: Adds civilian emergency dispatchers to the definition of "first responder" for purposes of emergency assistance and preparedness and provides a definition for "civilian emergency dispatchers".

Present law with regard to the La. Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, provides a definition of "first responder" as meaning a volunteer engaged in activities involving the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness pursuant to present law (R.S. 29:721 et seq.) and first responders as defined in present law (R.S. 40:1231) including but not limited to medical personnel, emergency and medical technicians, volunteer firemen, auxiliary law enforcement officers, and members of the Civil Air Patrol.

Present law also provides that "first responder" means the first arriving organized responders with the capability and mission to contain, mitigate, and resolve the emergency at hand.

Present law, with regard to the La. Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, also provides that "first responder" refers to those individuals who in the early stages of an incident are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence, and the environment, including emergency response providers as defined in Section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101), as well as emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works, and other skilled support personnel, such as equipment operators that provide immediate support services during prevention, response, and recovery operations consistent with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8.

Proposed law retains present law and adds "civilian emergency dispatchers" to the definition of "first responder".

Proposed law defines "civilian emergency dispatchers" as meaning an emergency response operator or emergency services dispatcher who provides communication support services for an agency by responding to requests for assistance in emergencies, including any other emergency response personnel employed by an agency.

(Amends R.S. 23:1017.1(6) and R.S. 29:723(1)-(17) and 739(C); Adds R.S. 29:723(18))