

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 477

BY SENATOR JENKINS

MUSEUMS. Establishes the Shreveport Water Works Museum as a facility within the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. (gov sig)

AN ACT

To enact Chapter 5-M of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 25:380.101 through 380.104, relative to the Shreveport Water Works Museum; to establish the museum within the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism; to provide relative to the location and purpose of the museum; to provide relative to operating funds and appropriations by the legislature; to provide relative to donations, loans, and the disposition of property; to provide relative to the use of collections and property of the museum; to provide relative to the authority of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism with respect to the museum; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Chapter 5-M of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 25:380.101 through 380.104, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 5-M. SHREVEPORT WATER WORKS MUSEUM**

**§380.101. Establishment and location; purpose and use**

**A. The Shreveport Water Works Museum, referred to in this Chapter as the "museum", is established as a facility in the city of Shreveport, parish of**

1 Caddo, under the overall jurisdiction of the Department of Culture, Recreation  
2 and Tourism, referred to in this Chapter as the "department", as more  
3 specifically provided in this Chapter.

4 B. The museum shall be a historical, cultural, scientific, and  
5 technological institution whose primary purpose shall be to research, collect,  
6 preserve, and present, as an educational resource, the pictures and  
7 photographs, documents, artifacts, objects of art, and the like that reflect the  
8 social, cultural, and economic history of the pumping station and water supply  
9 related artifacts of Louisiana.

10 §380.102. Operating funds; appropriations by the legislature

11 A. The department shall include in its annual budget request, required  
12 by R.S. 39:32, a request for funds necessary for support of the museum. The  
13 governor shall include in the executive budget submitted to the legislature  
14 sufficient funding for the support of the operations of the museum.

15 B. Funds appropriated by the legislature to the department for the  
16 operation of the museum shall be used solely for that purpose. No  
17 administrative costs of any kind shall be charged by the department for any  
18 services associated with placement of the museum within the jurisdiction of the  
19 department.

20 C.(1) If sufficient funds necessary for the operation of the museum are  
21 not appropriated by the legislature, and funds from other local, public, or  
22 private sources are not available for this purpose, the department is authorized  
23 to temporarily close the museum to the public until such time as sufficient funds  
24 necessary for the operation of the museum are appropriated by the legislature.  
25 The department shall maintain the museum during any period of temporary  
26 closure.

27 (2) The department may accept and use, in accordance with law, gifts,  
28 grants, bequests, donations, endowments, or funds from any public or private  
29 source to support the operations of the museum.

1           **§380.103. Donations and loans; disposition of property**

2           **A. The department may solicit and accept funds, governmental grants,**  
3           **donations, and contributions of lands, buildings, monies, artifacts, relics, video**  
4           **recordings, motion picture films, books and papers, pictures and photographs,**  
5           **documents, works of art, or other property on behalf of and as additions to the**  
6           **museum either in the form of loans or in the form of donations inter vivos or**  
7           **mortis causa, and the department may acquire them by purchase, lease, or**  
8           **otherwise, subject to the terms, conditions, or limitations contained in the**  
9           **instrument by which such property is acquired. However, the museum, through**  
10           **the department, may enter into any and all contracts with any person, lender,**  
11           **or donor that it may deem fit, proper, and necessary to accept and receive such**  
12           **lands, buildings, monies, artifacts, relics, video recordings, motion picture films,**  
13           **books and papers, pictures and photographs, documents, works of art, or other**  
14           **property on behalf of and as additions to the museum. The museum may serve**  
15           **as the beneficiary of any public trust heretofore or hereafter created for such**  
16           **purpose pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 9:2341 et seq.**

17           **B. The Board of Directors of the Louisiana State Museum, referred to**  
18           **in this Chapter as the "board", is granted the authority of deaccession with**  
19           **respect to any collection of the museum and, for such purpose, is exempted from**  
20           **laws relative to the sale or disposal of surplus property. The board shall**  
21           **establish policies and procedures necessary to carry out this authority in an**  
22           **orderly manner.**

23           **C.(1) Any property which has been deposited with the museum, by loan**  
24           **or otherwise, and which has been held by the museum for more than ten years,**  
25           **and to which no person has made claim shall be deemed to be abandoned and,**  
26           **notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 1 of Title XII of Book III of the**  
27           **Louisiana Civil Code, shall become the property of the museum if Paragraph**  
28           **(2) of this Subsection has been complied with.**

29           **(2)(a) At least once each week for two consecutive weeks, the board shall**

1 cause to be published in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the  
2 parish of Caddo a notice and listing of the property.

3 (b) The notice shall contain:

4 (i) The name and last known address, if any, of the last known owner or  
5 depositor of the property.

6 (ii) A description of the property.

7 (iii) A statement that if proof of claim is not presented by the claimant  
8 to the board and if the claimant's right to receive such property is not  
9 established to the satisfaction of the board within sixty-five days from the date  
10 of the second published notice, the property will be deemed to be abandoned  
11 and shall become the property of the museum.

12 (3) If no valid claim has been made to the property within sixty-five days  
13 from the date of the second published notice, title to the property shall vest in  
14 the museum free from all claims.

15 §380.104. Use of collections

16 Any collection of the museum may, subject to approval of the board, be  
17 lent in part. The board shall ensure proper safeguards for its maintenance and  
18 return and shall ensure that proper records are kept. The collections shall be  
19 available for use in educational projects, subject to the approval of the board.

20 Section 2. The provisions of Section 1 of this Act shall become effective when an Act  
21 of the Louisiana Legislature containing a specific appropriation of monies for the  
22 implementation of the provisions of this Act becomes effective.

23 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
24 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
25 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
26 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
27 effective on the day following such approval.

