

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 80

BY REPRESENTATIVES DEWITT, CHASSION, COATES, DOMANGUE, EGAN,
FIRMMENT, GLORIOSO, HENRY, MOORE, SCHAMERHORN, WILDER, AND
WYBLE

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 23:1017.1(6) and R.S. 29:739(C) and to enact R.S. 29:723(20),
relative to first responders; to expand the definition of "first responder" to include
electrical linemen; to provide for the definition of "electrical lineman"; to provide
for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 23:1017.1(6) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1017.1. Definitions

Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following words and
terms, when used in this Part, shall have the following meanings:

* * *

(6) "First responder" means a volunteer engaged in activities involving the
Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness pursuant to
R.S. 29:721 et seq., and first responders as defined in R.S. 29:723 including but not
limited to medical personnel, emergency and medical technicians, volunteer firemen,
auxiliary law enforcement officers, state agency essential workers, emergency
service dispatchers, ~~and~~ emergency response operators, electrical linemen as defined
by R.S. 29:723, and members of the Civil Air Patrol.

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Section 2. R.S. 29:739(C) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 29:723(20) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§723. Definitions

As used in this Chapter:

* * *

(20)(a) "Electrical lineman" means a person employed to install, maintain, or repair electrical transmission and power distribution systems, and who, based solely on employment as an electrical lineman, shall not be entitled to compensation, pension, or other benefits paid by the state or a political subdivision of the state. Electrical linemen shall be considered first responders only in instances involving weather emergencies as declared by the governor pursuant to R.S. 29:721 et seq.

(b) Nothing in this Subsection shall relieve an employer of its responsibilities pursuant to Civil Code Article 2320.

(c) The term "first responder" may be displayed on the uniform of an electrical lineman, but electrical linemen shall be considered private sector employees who are not governed by the state or any local governmental subdivision of the state.

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§739. Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact

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C. Definitions

As used in this Section, "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 and electrical linemen that provide immediate support services during prevention, response, and recovery operations consistent with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8.

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1 Section 3. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to
2 renumber the definitions in R.S. 29:723 to ensure that the definitions are in alphabetical
3 order.

4 Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
5 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
6 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
7 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
8 effective on the day following such approval.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____