

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 319

BY REPRESENTATIVE ORGERON

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 25:1221(B)(8), 1222(A) and (B)(4), (9), and (14), 1223(A)(1),  
3 1224(A)(10), (B)(1)(a), (c), and (f), (2)(introductory paragraph), (a), (b), and (c), and  
4 (3)(introductory paragraph), and (a) through (f), relative to the Atchafalaya Trace  
5 Commission and Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Area; to change the name of the  
6 heritage area; to include Lafourche Parish within the heritage area; to increase the  
7 membership of the commission; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 25:1221(B)(8), 1222(A) and (B)(4), (9), and (14), 1223(A)(1),  
10 1224(A)(10), (B)(1)(a), (c), and (f), (2)(introductory paragraph), (a), (b), and (c), and  
11 (3)(introductory paragraph), and (a) through (f) are hereby amended and reenacted to read  
12 as follows:

13 §1221. Legislative recognition

14 \* \* \*

15 B. The legislature recognizes that:

16 \* \* \*

17 (8) Principal organizations and individuals, drawn from a broad cross section  
18 of constituencies, are willing to develop partnerships to achieve stated goals and  
19 realize a vision consistent with establishment of ~~a heritage area~~ the Atchafalaya  
20 National Heritage Area Management Plan.

21 \* \* \*

22 §1222. Atchafalaya Trace Commission; creation

1           A. In furtherance of the legislature's recognition, there is hereby created the  
 2           Atchafalaya Trace Commission, referred to in this Chapter as the "commission",  
 3           which shall be an agency of state government within the Department of Culture,  
 4           Recreation and Tourism. The legislature further establishes in the state of Louisiana  
 5           the Atchafalaya ~~Trace~~ National Heritage Area, referred to in this Chapter as "the  
 6           ~~trace~~ heritage area". The ~~trace~~ heritage area shall consist of the territory in the  
 7           following parishes ~~as generally depicted on the map entitled the Atchafalaya Trace~~  
 8           ~~Heritage Corridor Concept Plan copyrighted in 1996 by the Center for Landscape~~  
 9           ~~Interpretation:~~ St. Mary, Iberia, St. Martin, St. Landry, Avoyelles, Pointe Coupee,  
 10           Iberville, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafayette, West Baton Rouge, Concordia, ~~and~~  
 11           East Baton Rouge. ~~In addition, the trace area shall include all of the territory in~~  
 12           Ascension, and Parish Lafourche. ~~However, no other parish may be added to the~~  
 13           ~~Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Area until such time as criteria for inclusion into the~~  
 14           ~~trace area have been identified and established by the commission.~~

15           B. The purposes of the commission shall include the following:

16                                   \*       \*       \*

17           (4) To improve transportation and communication facilities and access  
 18           within the trace heritage area.

19                                   \*       \*       \*

20           (9) To seek recognition and federal funding for the trace heritage area as a  
 21           National Heritage Area.

22                                   \*       \*       \*

23           (14) To develop an integrated natural, scenic, cultural, and historic resource  
 24           management plan for the trace heritage area and assist appropriate federal, state, and  
 25           local authorities in its implementation.

26           §1223. Membership; officers

27           A.(1) The commission shall be comprised of ~~fourteen~~ fifteen members. The  
 28           governing authority of each parish identified in R.S. 25:1222(A) as having territory  
 29           within the trace heritage area shall appoint one member.

30                                   \*       \*       \*

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscoring are additions.

1 §1224. Duties and authority

2 A. The commission shall have the following duties and authority:

3 \* \* \*

4 (10) The commission may acquire from any willing seller real property or  
5 interests in real property in the ~~trace~~ heritage area as deemed necessary to fulfill the  
6 purposes of this Chapter.

7 \* \* \*

8 B.(1) To guide the commission's operations and in preparation for  
9 completing the management plan, the commission shall prepare a concept plan and  
10 feasibility study which:

11 (a) Identifies the commission as the management entity for the ~~trace~~ heritage  
12 area and describes the organization, structure, people, programs, capabilities, and  
13 funding necessary and desirable for implementing the purposes of this Chapter.

14 \* \* \*

15 (c) Determines the potential for the ~~trace~~ heritage area to become a  
16 nationally recognized heritage area.

17 \* \* \*

18 (f) Defines the Atchafalaya ~~Trace~~ National Heritage Area driving corridor  
19 or scenic byway.

20 \* \* \*

21 (2) Within four years after the commission conducts its first meeting, it shall,  
22 through the secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, submit  
23 to the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs and the Senate  
24 Committee on Natural Resources a Cultural Heritage and Corridor Management  
25 Plan. The plan shall take into account existing federal, state, and local plans, and  
26 shall coordinate those plans and present a unified resource management and  
27 interpretation plan for the ~~trace~~ heritage area. The plan shall:

28 (a) Provide a complete resource inventory which also includes any property  
29 in the ~~trace~~ heritage area which should be preserved, restored, managed, developed,  
30 maintained, or acquired because of its national historic, cultural, scenic, or natural

1 systems significance.

2 (b) Develop a historic, cultural, scenic, and natural resource interpretation  
3 plan to interpret the resources of the ~~trace~~ heritage area.

4 (c) Recommend policies for resource management which consider and detail  
5 the application of appropriate land and water management techniques, including the  
6 development of intergovernmental cooperative agreements, that will protect and  
7 interpret the ~~trace's~~ historical, cultural, scenic, and natural resources of the heritage  
8 area in a manner consistent with supporting appropriate and compatible economic  
9 revitalization efforts.

10 \* \* \*

11 (3) After review and approval of the plan by the legislature, by resolution,  
12 the commission shall implement the plan by taking appropriate steps in cooperation  
13 with any public or private entity to preserve and interpret the historic resources of  
14 the ~~trace~~ heritage area and to support public and private efforts in sustainable  
15 economic revitalization consistent with the goals of the plan. These steps may  
16 include but need not be limited to:

17 (a) Assisting the state, local, and federal governments in preserving the ~~trace~~  
18 heritage area and its surrounding area.

19 (b) Assisting the state, local, and federal governments, directly or indirectly,  
20 in designing, establishing, and maintaining visitor centers and other interpretive  
21 centers and exhibits in the ~~trace~~ heritage area.

22 (c) Assisting in increasing public awareness of and appreciation for the  
23 historical, scenic, natural, and cultural resources and sites in the ~~trace~~ heritage area.

24 (d) Assisting the state, local, and federal governments and nonprofit  
25 organizations in the restoration of any historic building or structure and of any  
26 damaged or impaired natural systems or features in the ~~trace~~ heritage area.

27 (e) Encouraging, by appropriate means, enhanced economic development in  
28 the ~~trace~~ heritage area consistent with the goals of the plan.

29 (f) Ensuring that clear, consistent signs identifying access points, ~~trace~~

1           heritage driving corridor or scenic byway routes, points of interest, and services for  
2           visitors are placed throughout the ~~trace~~ heritage area.

3   \*           \*           \*

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

---

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_