

ACT No. 475

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

A. In furtherance of the legislature's recognition, there is hereby created the Atchafalaya Trace Commission, referred to in this Chapter as the "commission", which shall be an agency of state government within the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. The legislature further establishes in the state of Louisiana the Atchafalaya Trace National Heritage Area, referred to in this Chapter as "the trace heritage area". The trace heritage area shall consist of the territory in the following parishes as generally depicted on the map entitled the Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Corridor Concept Plan copyrighted in 1996 by the Center for Landscape Interpretation: St. Mary, Iberia, St. Martin, St. Landry, Avoyelles, Pointe Coupee, Iberville, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafayette, West Baton Rouge, Concordia, and East Baton Rouge₂. ~~In addition, the trace area shall include all of the territory in Ascension, and Parish Lafourche. However, no other parish may be added to the Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Area until such time as criteria for inclusion into the trace area have been identified and established by the commission.~~

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

§1223. Membership; officers

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

* * *

§1224. Duties and authority

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

(a) Provide a complete resource inventory which also includes any property in the ~~trace~~ heritage area which should be preserved, restored, managed, developed, 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~~

3 * * *

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

APPROVED: _____