

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 53 (HB 80)

2025 Regular Session

Dewitt

Existing law with regard to the La. Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, defines "first responder" as 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 medical personnel, emergency and medical technicians, volunteer firemen, auxiliary law enforcement officers, state agency essential workers, emergency service dispatchers, emergency response operators, and members of the Civil Air Patrol.

Existing law 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, 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.

New law adds electrical linemen to the definition of "first responder".

New law defines "electrical lineman" as a person employed to install, maintain, or repair electrical transmission and power distribution systems for the purpose of being allowed first access to the scene of an emergency and not for purposes of monetary or health benefits.

New law provides that electrical linemen shall be considered first responders only during weather emergencies as declared by the governor pursuant to R.S. 29:721 et seq. Provides further that nothing in new law shall relieve an employer of its responsibilities pursuant to C.C. Art. 2320.

New law provides that 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.

New law includes electrical linemen as other skilled support personnel for purposes of the Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact.

Effective upon signature of governor (June 4, 2025).

(Amends R.S. 23:1017.1(6) and R.S. 29:739(C); Adds R.S. 29:723(20))