

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 512

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAZEL

ELDERLY: Creates the Aged and Law Enforcement Response Team

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Chapter 8-A of Title 15 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be
3 comprised of R.S. 15:1231 through 1233, relative to the victimization of senior
4 citizens; to create the Aged and Law Enforcement Response Team Program; to
5 create the Aged and Law Enforcement Response Team Board; to provide for the
6 board membership; to provide for the objectives, duties, and responsibilities of the
7 board; to establish state and parish level participation; to provide for rulemaking; to
8 provide for a selection, testing, training, and certification program for law
9 enforcement officers; and to provide for related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. Chapter 8-A of Title 15 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
12 comprised of R.S. 15:1231 through 1233, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 CHAPTER 8-A. VICTIMIZATION OF SENIOR CITIZENS

14 §1231. Aged and Law Enforcement Response Team Board; members;
15 compensation; meetings; quorum

16 A. The board shall consist of the following members:

17 (1) A representative of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections,
18 office of state police, to be appointed by the deputy secretary of public safety
19 services.

1 (2) Two representatives of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, to be
2 appointed by its president.

3 (3) Two representatives of the Louisiana Municipal Chiefs of Police
4 Association, to be appointed by its president.

5 (4) One representative of the office of elderly affairs, to be appointed by its
6 executive director.

7 (5) Two representatives from parish volunteer councils on aging, to be
8 appointed by the executive director of the office of elderly affairs.

9 (6) One representative from the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement
10 and Administration of Criminal Justice, to be appointed by its executive director.

11 (7) Two representatives from the American Association of Retired Persons,
12 to be appointed by the president of the state American Association of Retired
13 Persons.

14 (8) One representative from the Department of Justice, executive office of
15 the attorney general, to be appointed by the attorney general.

16 B. In the performance of its functions, the board shall, to the extent possible,
17 solicit the participation and involvement of retired law enforcement personnel.

18 C. The board shall elect the chairperson by a majority vote of the
19 membership.

20 D. Members of the board shall serve until the appropriately designated
21 person in each representative organization selects another representative, and all
22 persons on the board shall be subject to the approval of the governor.

23 E. Membership on the board shall not constitute the holding of a public
24 office, and members of the board shall not be required to take and file oaths of office
25 before serving on the board.

26 F. The members of the board shall receive no compensation for their services
27 as members.

1 G. No member of the board shall be disqualified from holding any public
2 office or employment, nor shall any member forfeit any employment or office by
3 reason of his membership on the board.

4 H. The board shall meet as often as deemed necessary, but in no event less
5 than four times annually. The chairman shall call the first meeting of the board no
6 later than January 1, 2015. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum
7 for conducting business.

8 §1232. Powers and duties of the board

9 The Aged and Law Enforcement Response Team shall:

10 (1) Provide oversight and monitoring of the Elderly Services Officers
11 program.

12 (2) Review all grants under the program, from either state or federal sources,
13 and make recommendations relative to funding, program structure, or special
14 conditions to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and the
15 Administration of Criminal Justice.

16 (3) Assist the Louisiana Peace Officer Standards and Training Council,
17 relative to the design of the training program and the certification of Elderly Services
18 Officers.

19 (4) Provide a comprehensive clearinghouse for materials relative to the
20 elderly services which will be made available to the Elderly Services Officers
21 statewide.

22 (5) Receive information from Elderly Services Officers in each parish
23 relative to the law enforcement and service needs of elderly citizens in their parishes.

24 (6) Prepare an annual report to the governor and the legislature relative to
25 emerging crime problems affecting the elderly.

26 §1233. Creation of the Aged and Law Enforcement Response Team

27 A. The Aged and Law Enforcement Response Team Program hereinafter
28 known as "ALERT" is hereby established within the Louisiana Commission on Law
29 Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice. ALERT shall augment the state

1 and local Triad Program by creating a supportive implementation and training
2 program.

3 B. ALERT shall accomplish the following objectives:

4 (1) Creation of a statewide network of law enforcement officers hereinafter
5 known as "Elderly Services Officers" with specialized training in working with
6 elderly citizens and the crime problems specific to the elderly.

7 (2) Creation of a statewide network of assistant district attorneys with
8 specialized training in working with elderly victims, witnesses and defendants, and
9 criminal justice issues specific to the elderly.

10 (3) Provide uniformity in the delivery of high quality law enforcement
11 services to the state's elderly citizens through training and certification.

12 (4) Provide accountability and accessibility of services through parish level
13 boards composed of law enforcement officials and seniors, thus making the program
14 more responsive to the local needs of elders.

15 C.(1) The Aged and Law Enforcement Council hereinafter known as the
16 "council" shall be established in each parish and shall be composed of the sheriff,
17 district attorney, chiefs of police, seniors, and representatives from the primary
18 elderly services organization. The chairman of the council shall be a criminal justice
19 official with parish-wide authority and selected by the council members.

20 (2) The council shall be charged with the following duties and
21 responsibilities:

22 (a) Coordination of service delivery among the various agencies involved
23 with the law enforcement related services for the elderly.

24 (b) Monitoring local crime conditions and alerting the state board, local
25 criminal justice agencies, and the seniors of emerging crime problems.

26 (c) Monitoring of the Elderly Service Officer program in the parish.

27 (d) Cooperating with all agencies involved in the delivery of law
28 enforcement services to the elderly to identify gaps in the service delivery system
29 and seek ways to fill those needs.

1 (e) Receive the annual report prepared by the Elderly Services Officer which
2 sets forth the law enforcement service needs of the elderly citizens in the parish, the
3 corresponding response of the Elderly Services Officer program, and potential crime
4 problems affecting the elderly.

5 D.(1) The Elderly Services Officer training and certification program shall
6 be developed by P.O.S.T. with advice from the board. ALERT shall fund the cost of
7 developing and conducting the training subject to a specific appropriation for such
8 purpose and subject to the approval of the Joint Legislative Committee on the
9 Budget.

10 (2) The criteria and process for the screening of applicants shall be
11 developed by P.O.S.T. in consultation with the board and a physician in the practice
12 of geriatric medicine recommended by the Louisiana State University Medical
13 School. All persons nominated by local law enforcement agencies to receive the
14 Elderly Services Officers training program shall be approved through the screening
15 process before they may attend the training or receive certification.

16 E.(1) Upon completion of the training program, all candidates for Elderly
17 Services Officers shall be required to pass a certification examination developed by
18 the P.O.S.T. council with advice from the board.

19 (2) Each certified Elderly Services Officer shall be required to complete an
20 annual training course.

21 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
22 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
23 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
24 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
25 effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Hazel

HB No. 512

Abstract: Creates the Aged and Law Enforcement Response Team Program, provides for the Aged and Law Enforcement Response Team Board, and provides for the duties, objectives, and responsibilities of the Board.

Proposed law creates the Aged and Law Enforcement Response Team Board.

Proposed law provides for a statewide network of law enforcement officers to be known as Elderly Services Officers with specialized training in working with elderly citizens.

Proposed law creates the Aged and Law Enforcement Team Board which provides the following services:

- (1) Oversight and monitoring of the Elderly Services Officers program.
- (2) Review of all grants under the program, from either state or federal sources.
- (3) Assist in the design of the training and certification program of the Elderly Services Officers.
- (4) Provide a clearinghouse for materials and information concerning elderly services.
- (5) Prepare an annual report to the governor and the legislature relative to emerging crime problems as they affect the elderly.

Proposed law creates the Aged and Law Enforcement Response Team Council in each parish composed of the sheriff, district attorney, chiefs of police, seniors, and representatives from the primary elderly services organization.

Proposed law provides that the Aged and Law Enforcement Response Team Council shall:

- (1) Coordinate the delivery of services among the various agencies for the elderly.
- (2) Monitor local crime conditions and the effectiveness of the Elderly Services Officers program in the parish.
- (3) Cooperate with all agencies involved in the delivery of law enforcement services to the elderly.
- (4) Receive the annual report prepared by the Elderly Services Officers and the corresponding response of the Elderly Services Officers program.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 15:1231-1233)