

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 434 (HB 404)

2019 Regular Session

Schexnayder

New law relative to boards, commissions, and like entities, adds a member to the governing board of the La. Emergency Response Network (LERN) and provides for the abolition of certain boards, commissions, authorities, like entities, and related funds, abolishes the powers, functions, duties, and responsibilities of such entities, and removes references and related provisions.

New law further provides that the property and funds, if any, of the entities or funds abolished by new law that are not otherwise transferred by new law shall be the property of the state and the state treasurer shall provide for the deposit of such funds in the state treasury to the credit of the state general fund, after deposit in the Bond Security and Redemption Funds as provided by law.

### **Witness Protection Services Board and the Witness Protection Services Act**

Prior law established the Witness Protection Services Act to foster the full and voluntary cooperation of witnesses and provide services that may assist in protecting witnesses so as to encourage such cooperation. Created the Witness Protection Services Bd., consisting of seven members, within the office of the governor and provided the powers, functions, and duties of the board. Required the board to consider and act on matters concerning the identity, location, or award of protection to critical witnesses or their immediate family, including armed protection or escort, marked or unmarked surveillance, or periodic visits or contact by law enforcement officials prior, during, or subsequent to a criminal proceeding; physical relocation to an alternate shelter, housing, or residence; and reasonable housing expenses. Provided for immunity for the board and its members in providing or failing to provide witness protection services. New law repeals prior law.

### **Workforce and Innovation for a Stronger Economy Strategic Planning Council and Workforce and Innovation for a Stronger Economy Fund**

Prior law established, within the Bd. of Regents, the WISE Council comprised of the president-chancellor of the La. State University System, the president of the Southern University System, the president of the University of La. System, the president of the La. Community and Technical College System, the commissioner of higher education, the secretary of the Dept. of Economic Development (DED), the executive director of the La. Workforce Commission (LWC), and the chairman of the La. Workforce Investment Council. Required the council to develop a statewide workforce and gap analysis and to review implementation plans submitted by the institutions. Prior law created the WISE fund within the state treasury as a special fund for the purpose of funding degree and certificate production and research priorities in high demand fields through programs offered by La.'s public postsecondary education institutions to meet the state's current and future workforce and innovation needs. New law repeals prior law and repeals provisions which would have repealed the WISE fund in 2020 and new law further directs the state treasurer to transfer any unencumbered balance remaining in the WISE fund to the state general fund after satisfying appropriations for FY 2018-2019.

### **Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunity**

Prior law created the Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunity within the Dept. of Insurance, in the division of diversity and opportunity. Provided that the committee was composed of 25 members and was created for the purpose of assisting the commissioner of insurance and the division of diversity and opportunity in establishing educational and informational services to foster a greater awareness of the opportunities available in the insurance industry and of the skills, training, and education necessary to prepare for opportunities in employment, appointment as producers, and contracting for services with insurance companies transacting business in La. Further required the division of diversity and opportunity to assist in coordinating the activities of the advisory committee. New law repeals prior law.

### **La. State Transportation Infrastructure Bank and La. State Transportation Infrastructure Fund**

Prior law created the La. State Transportation Infrastructure Bank and its board of directors within the Dept. of the Treasury for the purpose of selecting and assisting in financing eligible transportation projects by providing loans and other financial assistance to municipalities, parishes, publicly operated ports, harbors, or terminal districts, publicly operated airports, publicly operated ferries, or publicly operated transit systems for planning, constructing, and improving transportation facilities necessary for public purposes. Provided that any loan or other financial assistance be made pursuant to a cooperative endeavor agreement between the bank and a qualified borrower. Additionally created the La. State Transportation Infrastructure Fund as a special fund in the state treasury. Provided that monies in the fund were to be used exclusively by the bank to provide assistance to qualified borrowers for eligible transportation projects. Required the bank to establish and maintain at least the following accounts in the fund: state and local roadway account, state and local nonroadway account, federal roadway account, and federal nonroadway account. Dedicated 7% of the phased in deposits of the sales tax on motor vehicles and specified mineral revenues to the fund to be used exclusively for final design and construction and not for studies. New law repeals prior law and further provides that the revenues formerly dedicated to the La. State Transportation Infrastructure Fund shall be dedicated to the Transportation Trust Fund to be used exclusively for final design and construction and not for studies.

### **La. Aquatic Invasive Species Council and the La. Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Task Force**

Prior law created the La. Aquatic Invasive Species Council in the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries. Further created the La. Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Task Force in the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to assist the council. Provided that the council, with the advice of the task force, was charged with implementation of the La. Invasive Aquatic Species Management Plan; coordination of the efforts of the state, the region, and the nation to control, prevent, or eradicate invasive aquatic species; implementation of the management plan's goals to prevent and control the introduction of new nonindigenous aquatic species, to control the spread of existing invasive aquatic species, and to eradicate already established invasive aquatic species; identifying funding sources; and submission of a status report to the legislature. New law repeals prior law.

### **Governing Board, La. Emergency Response Network**

Existing law creates and provides relative to the La. Emergency Response Network (LERN) and further provides relative to the membership of the governing board of LERN. New law adds a representative of a burn center that is verified by the American Burn Assoc. to the governing board of LERN.

Effective June 30, 2019.

(Amends R.S. 39:100.116(A)(13), R.S. 40:2844(B)(intro. para.), R.S. 44:4.1(B)(8), and R.S. 48:77(B)(3); Adds R.S. 40:2844(B)(25); Repeals R.S. 15:1601 - 1614, R.S. 17:3138.4, R.S. 22:31(A)(1) and 32, R.S. 36:4(O), 610(J), 686(C)(4), and 769(M), R.S. 48:81 - 90.1, R.S. 56:360.1 - 360.3, and Section 5 of Act No. 612 of the 2018 R.S.)