

Existing law establishes the La. Civil Rights Museum as the official state civil rights museum. Provides that the museum is domiciled in New Orleans and shall be operated, managed, and funded by the office of the state museum (OSM). Provides that the office shall provide sufficient funds for the proper operation and management of the museum facilities, according to the accepted standards of museum operations, including a competent administrative and professional staff; however, no state funds shall be utilized unless specifically appropriated for this purpose.

New law retains existing law and further provides that the OSM shall operate the museum in accordance with a budget plan developed with the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board.

New law requires that OSM present an annual report of the museum operations and management to the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board.

Existing law provides that the museum is a civil rights historical museum responsible for the collection, preservation, and exhibition of archives, books, charts, documents, maps, records, and other artifacts relative to the evolution, development, and history of civil rights in Louisiana. Provides that all properties and the management thereof will be under the jurisdiction of the office.

New law retains existing law.

Existing law provides that the museum may directly, or indirectly through the board of directors of the La. State Museum or the La. Museum Foundation, receive donations and grants from individuals, corporations, private foundations, and local, state, and federal governmental agencies, entities, or subdivisions in order to further the provisions of existing law.

New law establishes the La. Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board in the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. Provides that the board shall include the following 21 members initially:

- (1) The state senator representing the museum's district or her designee.
- (2) The state representative representing the museum's district or her designee.
- (3) One member shall be appointed by the city of New Orleans councilperson representing the museum's district.
- (4) One member shall be appointed by the mayor of the city of New Orleans.
- (5) Nine members shall be appointed by the governor, seven shall each represent a different congressional district and two as at-large members.
- (6) The lieutenant governor or his designee.
- (7) One member shall be a representative of and appointed by the Efforts of Grace, Inc.
- (8) One member shall be a representative of and appointed by the Oretha C. Haley Blvd. Merchants, Associates.
- (9) One member shall be a representative of and appointed by the Central City Partnership.
- (10) One member shall be appointed by the chancellor of SUNO in New Orleans.
- (11) One member shall be appointed by the chancellor of SUBR in Baton Rouge.
- (12) One member shall be a representative of and appointed by the Amistead Research Center.

- (13) One member shall be a representative of and appointed by the La. Commission on Human Rights.

Provides that the governor shall appoint the board's chairperson

New law provides that all subsequent members shall be appointed by the board. Further provides that the board may, by majority vote, appoint a total of 23 members. The board, by majority vote, may appoint two additional members to the initial appointment of 21 members as it deems necessary.

New law provides that each appointed member of the advisory board shall be subject to Senate confirmation and serve until his successor is appointed and takes office. Provides that the members serve without compensation.

New law provides that a majority of the members of the advisory board constitute a quorum for the transaction of official business and that all official actions of the advisory board require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting.

Requires that the board:

- (1) Meet at least once each quarter at the call of the advisory board's chairman.
- (2) Adopt bylaws establishing policies and procedures for its governance, including but not limited to the following:
 - (a) The election and responsibilities of the officers of the advisory board, including a chairman and vice chairman.
 - (b) The appointment, duties, and functions of standing and special committees of the advisory board, including the appointment of nonboard members to such committees and their functions.
 - (c) The preparation of a budget.
- (3) Advise the office on all matters relating to the operations of the civil rights museum.
- (4) Establish and use an identifying seal pertaining to museum business.
- (5) Perform such other functions as provided by existing and new law.

Authorizes the advisory board to:

- (1) In accordance with existing law cooperate with the OSM and the board of directors of the La. State Museum, or with any nonprofit corporation established to support the museum, seek and expend funds from any source, public or private, to support programs and general purposes of the civil rights museum.
- (2) Authorize reports and recommendations which include the issuance, publication, or distribution of general information documents or pamphlets, which are published on a regular basis and are generally known as newsletters.

Provisions of the Act establishing and providing for the selection of members of the board become effective upon signature of the governor (July 6, 2004).

The remaining provisions of the Act become effective 7/1/04.

(Amends R.S. 25:841, 842, and 844; adds R.S. 25:845-846 and R.S. 36:209(Z) and 919.7)