Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE BILL NO. 639 (Substitute for House Bill No. 584 by Representative Smiley)

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMILEY

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

BOARDS/COMMISSIONS: Provides for the abolition of certain boards and commissions

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 3:3552(A), R.S. 34:3101(B)(7), 3106(A), 3107, 3108(A), 3109(C)(9), 3112(G), 3112.1(A)(8) and (C), 3113(B), (E), (G), (H), and (J)(4), 3115(A), and 3116(B), (C), and (D), R.S. 36:504(A)(9), 509(L), and 913(A), and R.S. 48:1093(introductory paragraph), 1101.1(B)(2)(a), and 1161 and to repeal Subpart M of Part II of Chapter 4 of Subtitle I of Title 11 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 11:301 through 309, Chapter 23 of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 25:1011 through 1016, Chapter 33 of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 25:1301 through 1307, Chapter 35 of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 25:1321 through 1325, R.S. 28:311 through 313, R.S. 29:735.4, R.S. 34:3102(2) and (15), 3104, 3105, and 3113(F), R.S. 36:4(B)(1)(o), (S), and (T), 4.1(D)(7), and 509(M), Part V-B of Chapter 1 of Subtitle I of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 39:211 through 216, Chapter 26 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 42:1481 through 1485, R.S. 46:1941.8(A)(3)(b), R.S. 48:1092.1, and R.S. 51:943, relative to boards, commissions, authorities, districts, and like entities; to provide relative to the functional organization of state government by abolishing certain

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boards, commissions, authorities, and like entities; to transfer certain powers and responsibilities; to remove references to certain abolished entities; to remove references to, provisions for, and the powers, functions, and duties of the Commission on Public Retirement, the Compensation Review Commission, the Emergency/Disaster Medicine Review Panel, the Louisiana Governor's Mansion Commission, the Hurricane Katrina Memorial Commission, the Louisiana Wetlands Conservation and Hurricane Protection Tourist Center Commission, the Mississippi River Bridge Authority, the Small Business Entrepreneurship Commission, the Louisiana Technology Innovations Council, and the Youth Enhanced Services Consortium; and the Offshore Terminal Authority; to provide for transfer of some of the powers, functions, and duties of some of the above-referenced entities; to provide for certain technical corrections regarding placement of boards and commissions in the Executive Reorganization Act; to provide relative to membership on the Louisiana Soybean and Grain Research and Promotion Board; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Commission on Public Retirement

Section 1. Subpart M of Part II of Chapter 4 of Subtitle I of Title 11 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 11:301 through 309, is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Compensation Review Commission

Section 2. Chapter 26 of Title 42 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 42:1481 through 1485, is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Emergency/Disaster Medicine Review Panel

Section 3. R.S. 29:735.4 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Louisiana Governor's Mansion Commission

Section 4. Chapter 23 of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 25:1011 through 1016, and R.S. 36:4(T) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

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Hurricane Katrina Memorial Commission

Section 5. Chapter 33 of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 25:1301 through 1307, and R.S. 36:4(B)(1)(o) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

Louisiana Wetlands Conservation and Hurricane Protection Tourist Center Commission

Section 6. Chapter 35 of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 25:1321 through 1325, is hereby repealed in their entirety.

Mississippi River Bridge Authority

Section 7. (A) R.S. 48:1093(introductory paragraph), 1101.1(B)(2)(a), and 1161 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1093. General purposes and powers

Every authority incorporated under this Part shall be for the purpose of constructing or acquiring toll bridges and ferries to improve and extend the highway system of the state of Louisiana and, subject to the consent of the affected local governmental bodies, shall also be authorized to construct or acquire transit systems, terminals and, in the case of the ~~Mississippi River Bridge Authority~~ crescent city connection division of the Department of Transportation and Development, such parking facilities as may be required on the west bank of the Mississippi River within its jurisdiction in connection with its toll bridges and ferries so as to supplement and augment the effectiveness of its bridges and ferries and better provide for the mass movement of people; provided, however, that no such authority shall construct a transit system, in competition with an existing transit system, nor shall any such authority expropriate any portion of an existing transit system unless the entire system is purchased. It is further provided that no State Department of Highways Long Range Highway Fund monies shall be pledged or used to finance any such transit systems and terminals or parking facilities. Every such authority is hereby granted and shall have and may exercise all powers necessary or convenient for the

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carrying out of said purposes, including, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the following rights and powers:

* * *

§1101.1. Crescent City Connection police

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B.

* * *

(2)(a) Crescent City Connection police shall have, under the direction and control of the secretary, the same powers to make arrests and the power to execute and return all warrants and processes as sheriffs of the parishes of Jefferson and St. Bernard and police officers of the city of New Orleans and the cities of Gretna and Westwego in and upon the ~~Mississippi River Bridge Authority's~~ Department of Transportation and Development's property occupied by the Crescent City Connection, the Huey P. Long Bridge, the Westbank Expressway, and the ferries and the public ways contiguous thereto. Such police officers, under the same direction and control of the secretary, shall have all other powers of sheriffs of the parishes of Jefferson and St. Bernard and police officers of the city of New Orleans and the cities of Gretna and Westwego as peace officers, in all places and on all premises under the jurisdiction and control of the Crescent City Connection, the Huey P. Long Bridge, the Westbank Expressway, and the ferries and the public ways contiguous thereto.

* * *

§1161. Abolition of bridge and ferry authorities; merger and consolidation of bridge and ferry functions in board of highways

In order to merge and consolidate into one department the duties and functions that are of a similar nature or character, under authority of Section 32 of Article III of the Constitution of Louisiana, the Ascension-St. James Bridge and Ferry Authority, the Iberville Parish Bridge and Ferry Authority, the Pointe Coupee-West Feliciana Bridge and Ferry Authority, and the St. Charles-St. John the Baptist

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Bridge and Ferry Authority are hereby abolished, effective January 1, 1973, and all of the powers, duties, functions, immunities, restrictions, and exemptions from taxation under any laws, and particularly under the effective provisions of Act 7 of 1952, Act 526 of 1958, Act 555 of 1966, Act 413 of 1962, Act 413 of 1966, Act 269 of 1968, Act 290 of 1968, Act 57 of 1969, and R.S. 48:1151 through 1158 are transferred to the State Board of Highways and Department of Highways, effective January 1, 1973, and after said date the board of highways shall have and exercise all of the executive and administrative functions provided for by the constitution or laws with respect to the authorities herein abolished and with respect to the officers and members of such authorities. ~~However, nothing herein shall be construed as abolishing or affecting the operation of the Mississippi River Bridge Authority which is hereby specifically continued in operation.~~

(B) R.S. 36:504(A)(9) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§504. Powers and duties of secretary of transportation and development

A. In addition to the functions, powers, and duties otherwise vested in the secretary by law, he shall:

* * *

(9) Have absolute control over the ~~Mississippi River Bridge Authority including but not limited to those responsibilities provided in R.S. 48:1101.1~~ Crescent City Connection.

* * *

(C) R.S. 36:509(M) and R.S. 48:1092.1 are hereby repealed in their entirety.

Small Business Entrepreneurship Commission

Section 8. R.S. 36:4.1(D)(7) and R.S. 51:943 are hereby repealed in their entirety.

Louisiana Technology Innovations Council

Section 9. R.S. 36:4(S) and Part V-B of Chapter 1 of Subtitle I of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 39:211 through 216, are hereby repealed in their entirety.

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Youth Enhanced Services Consortium

Section 10. R.S. 28:311 through 313 and R.S. 46:1941.8(A)(3)(b) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

Offshore Terminal Authority

Section 11.(A) R.S. 34:3101(B)(7), 3106(A), 3107, 3108(A), 3109(C)(9), 3112(G), 3112.1(A)(8) and (C), 3113(B), (E), (G), (H), and (J)(4), 3115(A), and 3116(B), (C), and (D) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§3101. Object; purpose of chapter

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B. It is further the object and purpose of this Chapter:

* * *

(7) To create a state agency of the state of Louisiana to exercise the powers and functions granted hereby and to serve as an agency to assist licensees, as hereinafter defined, in the financing of deepwater ports and offshore terminal facilities. The functions exercised by the ~~board~~ authority empowered herein shall be deemed to be governmental functions and public obligations of the state of Louisiana performed on behalf of the state.

* * *

§3106. Annual reports; budget unit

A. The ~~board of commissioners~~ executive director shall make an annual report to the governor showing all receipts and disbursements of the ~~board;~~ authority; the number of arrivals and departures of vessels and their tonnage; the exports and imports passing through the authority; the general condition of the authority and its structures, facilities, and other properties; and make such recommendations for its development, welfare, and management as may seem advisable.

* * *

§3107. Executive director; selection; duties; employees; compensation

A. The ~~board of commissioners shall select~~ governor shall appoint an executive director who shall exercise all control over all executive functions and the

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general operation of the authority. The authority may ~~either directly or~~ through ~~their~~ its executive director employ such other agents and employees permanent and temporary, as it may require and shall determine their qualifications, duties, and compensation. The executive director shall serve at the pleasure of the ~~board.~~ governor. All employees of the authority shall be responsible to the executive director who shall organize the personnel employed by the authority in the most efficient manner to accomplish the purpose of the authority as provided in this Chapter and by regulations established by the ~~authority's board~~ authority, all to be accomplished in accordance with applicable civil service laws, rules, and regulations.

B. ~~The executive director, in addition to his usual functions, shall be secretary to the board of commissioners.~~ The ~~board of commissioners~~ secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development shall fix the compensation of the executive director~~.~~, which shall be reasonable in light of fees charged by the authority to provide for its administrative costs attributable to the authority development program.

C. All employees of the authority, except ~~the board of commissioners,~~ the executive director, an assistant executive director, an executive secretary to the executive director, and professional employees employed on a contract basis, shall be in the classified service of the state.

§3108. Acquisition of sites; lease of state owned lands and water bottoms

A.(1) To enable the authority to perform the work herein provided, the state of Louisiana, acting by and through the register of state lands, is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to grant to the authority a lease on state owned lands and water bottoms which are selected by the authority as sites for offshore terminal facilities; provided, however, that the mineral rights on any and all state lands shall be reserved to the state of Louisiana.

(2) Upon receipt of a request from the ~~governing body of the~~ authority describing the lands to be leased by the authority, it is hereby made the mandatory

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duty of the register of state lands to issue a certificate of title evidencing the lease of the land to the authority as described in the request.

* * *

§3109. Powers

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C. In addition to all other powers granted to the authority, the authority is hereby granted the following powers and duties:

* * *

(9) To make secured or unsecured loans, but solely from funds obtained from the sale of revenue bonds issued under ~~Section 3112.1~~ R.S. 34:3112.1 for the purpose of financing or refinancing the acquisition, construction, improvement, or equipping of a revenue bond project or revenue bond projects; to charge and collect interest on such loans and pledge the proceeds of loan agreements as security for the payment of the principal and interest of bonds, or designated issues of bonds issued by the authority and any agreements made in connection therewith, whenever the ~~board~~ secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development finds such loans to be in furtherance of the public purposes and obligations of the authority and in the public interest, it being recognized that the funds being loaned are not funds of the state or of any political subdivision thereof, but are ~~moneys~~ monies obtained from revenue bonds secured by payments to be made by licensees and other private industrial and commercial enterprises.

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§3112. Bonds; procedure for issuance

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G. Such bonds shall be authorized by a resolution of the ~~board of commissioners of the authority~~ secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development and shall be of such series, bear such date or dates, mature at such time or times not exceeding forty years from their respective dates, bear interest at such rate or rates per annum, payable at such time or times, be in such denominations, be

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in such form, either coupon or full registered without coupons, carrying such registration and exchangeability privilege, be payable in such medium of payment and at such place or places, be subject to such terms of redemption not exceeding one hundred five percent of the principal amount thereof, and be entitled to such priority on the revenues of the authority as such resolution or resolutions may provide. The bonds shall be signed by such officers as the authority shall determine, and coupon bonds shall have attached thereto interest coupons bearing the facsimile signatures of such officer or officers of the authority as it shall designate. Any such bonds may be issued and delivered, notwithstanding that one or more of the officers signing such bonds or the officers whose facsimile signature or signatures may be upon the coupons shall have ceased to be such officer or officers at the time such bonds shall actually have been delivered. Said bonds shall be sold for not less than par and accrued interest to the highest bidder at a public sale after advertisement by the authority at least seven days in advance of the date of sale, in newspapers or financial journals published at such places as the authority may determine, reserving to the authority the right to reject any and all bids and to readvertise for bids. If, after advertisement as hereinabove provided, no bids are received, or if such bids as are received are considered in the discretion of the ~~board of commissioners of the~~ authority to be unsatisfactory, then and in that event the ~~board of commissioners~~ authority may publicly negotiate for the sale of such bonds without further advertisement. No proceedings in respect to the issuance of any such bonds shall be necessary except such as are contemplated by this ~~section~~ Section.

* * *

§3112.1. Additional authorization to issue revenue bonds and notes

A. Power to issue revenue bonds and notes. Without reference to any other provisions of the constitution and of the laws of Louisiana and as a grant of power in addition to the authority to issue bonds contained in Section 3112 of this Chapter and to carry out the purposes of this Chapter and promote industrial development in the state, the authority is authorized, with approval of the State Bond Commission,

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to issue its revenue bonds and notes, herein collectively called revenue bonds, as hereinafter provided, to finance or assist in the financing of the development, acquisition, and/or construction of deepwater ports and offshore terminal facilities licensed by the Secretary of Transportation of the United States of America pursuant to the Deepwater Port Act of 1974, as the same may be amended or supplemented from time to time, and to be emplaced within the coastal waters of Louisiana or seaward thereof and all directly related storage facilities and all functionally related and subordinate facilities and equipment therefor located offshore or onshore. The revenue bonds shall be authorized, secured, and have the details and characteristics set out hereunder.

* * *

(8) Nonliability of officers. ~~No member of the board or~~ Neither the executive director, any officer of the authority, nor the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development ~~and no~~ nor any officer or member of the State Bond Commission ~~or~~ nor any person executing such revenue bonds shall be liable personally on such bonds.

* * *

C. Construction of Section. The powers and rights conferred by this Section shall be in addition and supplemental to the powers and rights conferred by any other general or special law. This Section does and shall be construed to provide a complete and additional method for the doing of the things authorized thereby. Neither the making of contracts nor the issuance of revenue bonds or refunding revenue bonds or other obligations pursuant to the provisions of this Section need comply with the requirements of any other state law applicable to the making of contracts and the issuance of the revenue bonds or other obligations for the financing of any revenue bond project or projects undertaken pursuant to this Section, except as herein provided. In accordance with Title 36 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development is vested with and is hereby granted the right, power, and authority to do, perform, and

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exercise for and on behalf of the authority ~~and its board of commissioners~~, all acts and things required to be done and performed in connection with the authorization and issuance of revenue bonds under this Section. No proceedings, notice, or approval shall be required for the issuance of any revenue bonds or any instrument as security therefor, except as provided in this Section. The provisions of this Section shall be liberally construed for the accomplishment of its purposes.

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§3113. Environmental protection plan

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B. The environmental protection plan shall be formulated by the ~~three directors, as herein defined, with the advice and consent of the board of commissioners of the authority~~ executive director subject to approval of the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

* * *

E. The environmental protection plan may be amended at any time in accordance with the provisions of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, to reflect changes in the authority development program. Initiation for changes may come from ~~any of the three directors~~ the executive director or any interested person.

* * *

G. The environmental protection plan shall be an integral part of the authority development program. Costs incurred to develop the initial plan, or any amendments to it, shall be considered an internal cost of the authority development program and shall be considered a cost to the same extent that economic, engineering, or promotional programs are considered costs. The ~~three directors~~ executive director, subject to approval of the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, shall agree on the appropriate level of funding for the developing of the authority environmental protection plan, prepare any amendments thereto, and carry out the requirements of the plan. To the extent possible, federal funds shall be sought to assist in this effort.

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H. The best talent available shall be sought to perform the studies and surveys necessary to develop an environmental protection plan and carry out its requirements in accordance with this ~~chapter~~ Chapter. To the extent possible, university-based, public and private researchers in Louisiana shall be utilized. In all cases, the research in support of the environmental protection plan shall be coordinated by ~~agreement of the three directors~~ the executive director. The results of all research done in support of the environmental protection plan shall be open to the public and available to any interested person.

* * *

J. The environmental protection plan shall:

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(4) Present details of how the operational aspects of the authority development program will be conducted so as to minimize environmental problems, including but not limited to a monitoring program by appropriate public or private persons selected by the ~~board of commissioners~~ secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development; establishment of constructional and operational guidelines for environmental protection; strong enforcement provisions and mechanisms to ~~insure~~ ensure cleanup of accidental spills by technical means, with evidence of financial responsibility to ~~insure~~ ensure performance of the cleanup, and compliance with the enforcement provisions of the environmental protection plan. The plan shall consider the circumstances which may justify the temporary cessation of the port activities.

* * *

§3115. Remedies and enforcement

In addition to all other rights herein granted, the authority and the courts shall have the power to assure compliance with the purposes of this chapter as follows:

A. If the authority's ~~board of commissioners or~~ executive director has reasonable cause to believe that there exists a violation of this ~~chapter~~ Chapter or of the authority's rules and regulations, which could result in irreparable injury to the

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authority's operations, the environment, or the public interest, the authority may petition the Civil District Court for the parish of Orleans, or any other court of competent jurisdiction, for appropriate mandatory, injunctive, or other relief pending final adjudication of such matters.

* * *

§3116. Coordination and cooperation

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B. The ~~board of commissioners~~ executive director shall take affirmative steps to fully coordinate all aspects of the authority development program with the ~~Louisiana Advisory Commission on Coastal and Marine Resources (Act No. 35 of 1971) or its successor group, which is charged with the development of a coastal zone management plan for the state~~ secretary of the Department of Natural Resources or his designee charged with the development of the coastal zone management plan.

C. The ~~board of commissioners~~ executive director shall take affirmative steps to ~~insure~~ ensure that the authority development program is coordinated into the planning programs of other modes of transportation, to include rail, road, waterway, air, and pipeline, so that there is a long-term and orderly pursuit of transportation services in the coastal zone which are interrelated and coordinated so as to achieve the most efficient and economical transportation program that is feasible and that will be least destructive of other values in the state.

D. The ~~board of commissioners~~ executive director shall ~~insure~~ ensure that the appropriate federal agencies which are required by federal law to plan or regulate transportation facilities or programs are consulted regularly and are fully involved in the authority development program where appropriate.

(B) R.S. 36:509(L) and 913(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§509. Transfer of agencies to Department of Transportation and Development

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L. The Offshore Terminal Authority is transferred to and hereafter shall be within the Department of Transportation and Development, as provided ~~in R.S. 36:913~~ by law.

* * *

§913. Transfer; certain appointing authority retained

A. The agencies transferred by the provisions of R.S. ~~36:509(L) and 629(D)~~ 36:629(D) shall be transferred as provided in this Part except that each agency so transferred shall continue to appoint its own director and assistant director or personnel to fill comparable positions as provided by law.

* * *

(C) R.S. 34:3102(2) and (15), 3104, 3105, and 3113(F) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

Louisiana Soybean and Grain Research and Promotion Board

Section 12. R.S. 3:3552(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§3552. Louisiana Soybean and Grain Research and Promotion Board; creation and organization

A. The Louisiana Soybean and Grain Research and Promotion Board is created with its domicile at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The board shall be composed of ~~ten~~ twelve producer members to be appointed by the governor to serve terms concurrent with the governor. Each appointment by the governor shall be submitted to the Senate for confirmation. Eight members of the board shall be practical producers of soybeans in the state of Louisiana and ~~two~~ four members shall be practical producers of wheat, corn, or grain sorghum. The Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Inc., shall submit the names of eight practical soybean producers to the governor, and he shall appoint five persons from the nominees to serve on the board. The Louisiana Soybean Association shall submit the names of five practical soybean producers to the governor, and he shall appoint three members from the nominees to serve on the board. The Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Inc., shall submit the names of three persons who produce wheat, corn, or grain sorghum to the governor

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and he shall appoint two persons from these nominees to serve on the board. The Louisiana Cotton and Grain Association shall submit the names of three persons who produce wheat, corn, or grain sorghum to the governor and he shall appoint two persons from these nominees to serve on the board. Every fourth year the aforenamed organizations shall submit the names of nominees to the governor and succeeding boards shall be appointed by the governor in the same manner, giving equal representation to each organization in the appointment of the eight members who are practical soybean producers.

* * *

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)]

Smiley HB No. 639

Abstract: Provides for the abolition of certain boards, commissions, authorities, and like entities; in some cases also abolishes the functions and responsibilities of the entity; in other cases provides that some other person or entity is responsible for the functions and responsibilities of the abolished entity.

Proposed law provides for the abolition of certain boards, commissions, political subdivisions, authorities, and like entities; in some cases also abolishes the functions and responsibilities of the entity; in other cases provides that some other person or entity is responsible for the functions and responsibilities of the abolished entity, all as follows:

Commission on Public Retirement: Present law creates the commission to study and make recommendations concerning the administration, benefits, investments, funding, efficiency, and accountability of the state and statewide public retirement systems, plans, or funds and to advise House and Senate committees on retirement of findings and recommendations. Proposed law abolishes the commission and its functions.

Compensation Review Commission: Present law creates the commission to make a study of the salaries, expenses, reimbursements, and other forms of compensation and benefits of statewide elected officials and members of the legislature and establishes such salaries subject to legislative approval. Proposed law abolishes the commission and its functions.

Emergency/Disaster Medicine Review Panel: Present law establishes the panel to gauge the conduct of medical personnel with regard to clinical judgment during declared disasters and to provide an independent and objective advisory opinion. Proposed law abolishes the panel and its functions.

La. Governor's Mansion Commission: Present law creates the commission for purposes of protection and enhancement of the governor's mansion and its contents, furnishings, and grounds. Proposed law abolishes the commission and its functions.

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Hurricane Katrina Memorial Commission: Present law creates the commission to make recommendations for an appropriate memorial to commemorate those who lost their lives in La. in Hurricane Katrina. Provides that the commission terminated July 1, 2010. Proposed law removes provisions for the board and its functions from the statutes.

Mississippi River Bridge Authority: Present law creates the authority for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, operating, and maintaining the Mississippi River Bridges in New Orleans. Proposed law abolishes the authority and transfers its powers to the crescent city connection division of the Dept. of Transportation and Development.

Offshore Terminal Authority: Present law creates the authority within the Dept. of Transportation and Development to promote, plan, finance, develop, construct, control, license, regulate, supervise, operate, manage, maintain, and modify offshore terminal facilities within its jurisdiction. Provides for a board of commissioners to govern the authority and provides that the board shall appoint an executive director to exercise control over all executive functions and the general operation of the authority. Proposed law abolishes the board of commissioners but generally retains the existence and the powers and duties of the authority. Provides that the governor shall appoint the executive director.

Small Business Entrepreneurship Commission: Present law creates the commission to assess, evaluate, and review programs dealing with small business and entrepreneurship. Proposed law abolishes the commission and its functions.

La. Soybean and Grain Research and Promotion Board: Present law creates the La. Soybean and Grain Research and Promotion Board in the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry to promote the growth and development of the soybean, wheat, corn, and grain sorghum industries by research and advertisement. Provides that the board is comprised of 10 producer members appointed by the governor from nominations made by the Farm Bureau and the La. Soybean Association. Proposed law provides for two additional members of the board who shall be producers of wheat, corn, or grain sorghum nominated by the La. Cotton and Grain Association and appointed by the governor.

La. Technology Innovations Council: Present law establishes the council for the purpose of establishing policies, procedures, and criteria relative to innovative technological systems and services and their applications to government as well as recommend funding for those proposed projects that meet established requirements. Provides for the La. Technology Innovations Fund. Proposed law abolishes the council and its functions and the fund.

La. Wetlands Conservation and Hurricane Protection Tourist Center Commission: Present law creates the commission to promote awareness of wetlands conservation and to collect, preserve, and exhibit documents, archives, and other artifacts that promote wetlands conservation and hurricane protection. Proposed law abolishes the commission and its functions.

Youth Enhanced Services Consortium: Present law creates the consortium for the purpose of preparing and submitting a plan to the Dept. of Health and Hospitals for the provision of mental health services to emotionally disturbed children. Proposed law abolishes the consortium and its functions.

(Amends R.S. 3:3552(A), R.S. 34:3101(B)(7), 3106(A), 3107, 3108(A), 3109(C)(9), 3112(G), 3112.1(A)(8) and (C), 3113(B), (E), (G), (H), and (J)(4), 3115(A), and 3116(B), (C), and (D), R.S. 36:504(A)(9), 509(L), and 913(A), and R.S. 48:1093(intro. para.), 1101.1(B)(2)(a), and 1161; Repeals R.S. 11:301-309, R.S. 25:1011-1016, 1301-1307, and 1321-1325, R.S. 28:311-313, R.S. 29:735.4, R.S. 34:3102(2) and (15), 3104, 3105 and

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3113(F), R.S. 36:4(B)(1)(o), (S), and (T), 4.1(D)(7), and 509(M), R.S. 39:211-216, R.S. 42:1481-1485, R.S. 46:1941.8(A)(3)(b), R.S. 48:1092.1, and R.S. 51:943)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Removes the following from the bill thereby retaining their existence: the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council and the Uniform Electronic Local Return and Remittance Advisory Committee.

2. Relative to the Offshore Terminal Authority, removes provisions for involvement of the director of the La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, the director of the LSU Center for Wetland Resources in the development of the authority's environmental plan, and makes additional technical changes to present law consistent with the abolition of the board of commissioners.

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