DIGEST

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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.

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 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.