

New law 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, all as follows:

Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Area Development Zone Review Board: Prior law established the board to evaluate the eligibility of applicants to receive tax benefits pursuant to a pilot program that provided specific tax incentives for the heritage-based cottage industry located in the Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Area. New law abolishes the board and its functions.

Broadband Advisory Council: Prior law created the council to serve as the central broadband planning body for the state and to communicate and coordinate with state, regional, and local agencies and private entities to develop a coordinated statewide broadband access and usage policy. New law abolishes the council and its functions.

Catfish Promotion and Research Program and board: Prior law created the catfish promotion and research program to provide a voluntary method of raising revenues for the purposes of developing markets for La. catfish and for funding research and educational activities for the La. catfish industry. Provided for assessments levied upon a majority vote of catfish farmers. Authorized the board to adopt rules and regulations, to direct the conducting of referenda and notify catfish farmers of the results, to impose a civil penalty for failure to collect and remit assessments, and to institute civil proceedings to enforce its rulings. New law abolishes the program and board. Requires the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry to transfer any remaining monies received by the board to the La. Agricultural Finance Authority for the purpose of catfish promotion.

Coastal Land Stewardship Authority and board: Prior law created the authority to provide for the management and administration of certain immovable properties, servitudes, and easements acquired by the state in connection with the development, design, and implementation of coastal conservation, restoration, and protection plans and projects in a manner determined appropriate by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. Provided that the authority was administered by a board of directors. New law abolishes the authority and the board and their functions.

Mississippi River Road Commission: Prior law created the commission with the purpose of preserving, enhancing, and promoting the Mississippi River Road as an historic, cultural, scenic, natural, and economic resource for the state. New law abolishes the commission and its functions.

Systemic Initiatives Program Council: Prior law established a program for the improvement of the quality of science and mathematics education through a committed and cooperative effort among agencies involved in higher education, elementary and secondary education, and the National Science Foundation. Required the council to approve activities selected for program sponsorship and other projects and programs; establish and make available rules and procedures for the conduct of the program and the council; and receive and approve the disbursement of all funds made available for the program. New law abolishes the council and its functions.

Tri-State Corridor Commission: Prior law created the commission to undertake and perform economic development, industrial development, and tourism development in the corridor. Provided that the boundary of the commission was the geographical boundaries of the parish of Caddo in La.; the counties of Marion, Cass, and Bowie in Texas; and Miller and Little River Counties in Arkansas. Authorized the commission to receive monies, to levy and collect taxes other than ad valorem taxes, and to enter into cooperative agreements and arrangements. New law abolishes the commission and its functions.

Existing law creates the Board of Directors of the State Museum to advise the secretary of the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and the assistant secretary of the office of the state museum with respect to policies for the state museum. Provides for the membership of the board.

Prior law provided for the appointment of one member by the lieutenant governor from a list submitted by the Wedell-Williams Memorial Foundation in Patterson. New law provides that the member is appointed by the lieutenant governor from a list submitted by the Wedell-Williams Memorial Foundation or the Wedell Williams Aviation and Cypress Sawmill Foundation in Patterson.

Existing law creates the French Quarter Management District board of commissioners to govern the district. Provides that the board consists of 13 members, one of whom shall be a person who is either employed full-time or who owns or operates a business in the district.

Prior law provided that the person who is employed or owns or operates a business in the district was appointed by the Bourbon Business Alliance. New law provides that the member is appointed by the French Quarter Business League instead of the Bourbon Business Alliance.

Existing law creates the Council for the Development of French in La. to preserve, promote, and develop Louisiana's French and Creole culture, heritage, and language. Provides that the council is composed of 23 members, including members appointed by the La. section of the Assemblée des Parlementaires Francophones and members appointed by the American Association of Teachers of French, La. Chapter.

Prior law provided that four members were appointed by the Assemblée des Parlementaires Francophones. New law provides that three members, instead of four, are appointed by this organization.

Prior law provided that two members were appointed by the American Association of Teachers of French. New law provides that one member, instead of two, is appointed by this organization.

New law additionally provides that one member is appointed by the African-American Museum of St. Martinville and one member is appointed by CREOLE, Inc.

New law provides that the property and funds, if any, of the entities abolished 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 Fund as otherwise provided by existing law.

Effective Aug. 1, 2014.

(Amends R.S. 17:374(A)(2)(intro. para.), R.S. 25:341(D)(1)(e), 652(A), and 799(C)(1)(g), and R.S. 49:968(B)(intro. para.) and (3)(c); Repeals R.S. 3:558.1-558.13, R.S. 17:7(25) and 2751-2759, R.S. 25:1226.1(7), 1226.2, 1226.4(B)(1), and 1251-1255, R.S. 32:1751, R.S. 36:4(L)(2), 209(M)(2) and (S), 610(M), 629(R), 651(D)(6), and 802.17, R.S. 51:955.1-955.4, and R.S. 56:901)