
DIGEST

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HB 610 Original

2015 Regular Session

Harris

Abstract: Places the Dept. of Economic Development in the office of the lieutenant governor. Provides that the lieutenant governor may be referred to as the commissioner of the department. Provides that if a secretary of the dept. is not appointed, the lieutenant governor shall perform all the duties, functions, and responsibilities of the secretary as provided by law.

Present law creates the Dept. of Economic Development as a body corporate with the power to sue and be sued. Provides that the domicile of the department shall be in Baton Rouge.

Proposed law further provides that the dept. shall be in the office of the lieutenant governor and that the lieutenant governor may also be referred to as the commissioner of the Dept. of Economic Development.

Present law provides that there shall be a secretary of economic development appointed by the governor with the consent of the Senate, who serves at the pleasure of the governor at a salary fixed by the governor which salary shall not exceed the amount approved for such position by the legislature while in session. Provides that the secretary serves as the executive head and chief administrative officer of the department and shall have the responsibility for the policies of the department, except as otherwise provided by present law (Title 36), and for the administration, control, and operation of the functions, programs, and affairs of the department, provided that he performs those functions under the general control and supervision of the governor. Present law provides that the officers of the department shall be the secretary, the undersecretary, the deputy secretary if a deputy secretary is appointed, and assistant secretaries.

Proposed law provides instead that there may be a secretary of economic development appointed by the lieutenant governor with the consent of the Senate, who serves at the pleasure of the lieutenant governor at a salary fixed by the lieutenant governor which salary shall not exceed the amount approved for such position by the legislature while in session. Proposed law further specifies that the secretary is an officer of the department if one is appointed. Proposed law provides that the secretary performs the functions as the executive head and chief administrative officer of the department under the general control and supervision of the lieutenant governor. Proposed law further provides that if a secretary is not appointed, the lieutenant governor shall perform all duties, functions, and responsibilities of the secretary as provided by law.

Proposed law specifies that nothing in proposed law or present law shall be construed to alter the present civil service classification of any employee, deputy, or officer of the department or to place

any such employee, deputy, or officer of the department in the office of the lieutenant governor for purposes of civil service classification.

Present law provides for the powers and duties of the secretary, including to represent the public interest in the administration of present law and to be responsible to the governor, the legislature, and the public therefor; to advise the governor on problems concerning the department administration; and to make an annual report concerning operations of the department, including overviews and specified details of each business incentive and assistance program administered by the department and such recommendations as he deems necessary for the more effective internal structure and administration of the departments and to make other reports and recommendations on his own initiative or upon request of the governor, the legislature, or any committee or member thereof.

Proposed law includes the lieutenant governor as a person to whom the secretary is responsible, advises, and makes reports to. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides that the secretary has the authority to appoint, subject to gubernatorial approval, advisory councils, boards, and commissions necessary in the administration of the department, except as otherwise provided by law or by executive order. Proposed law provides instead that such appointments are subject to the approval of the lieutenant governor.

Present law provides that the governor shall appoint the undersecretary and the assistant secretaries of the department who each serve at the pleasure of the governor at a salary fixed by the governor which salary shall not exceed the amount approved for the position by the legislature while in session. Proposed law provides instead that the undersecretary and the assistant secretaries are appointed by the lieutenant governor and serve at the pleasure of the lieutenant governor at a salary fixed by the lieutenant governor which salary shall not exceed the amount approved for the position by the legislature while in session.

Present law provides that the office of business development shall provide research necessary to support the work of the department and its offices including analyzing new economic development policy directions, assessing the effectiveness of existing policies for the department and for the governor, and developing industry-specific research and promotional materials. Proposed law retains present law, but includes the lieutenant governor in the list of those to whom the office is to provide information.

(Amends R.S. 36:101(A), 102(A), 103, 104(A)(1), (5), and (7) and (B)(2), 106(A), 107(A), and 108(B)(7))