

Act 799.

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A true copy:

W. Fox McKeithen  
Secretary of State

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**ACT No. 800**

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**HOUSE BILL NO. 2084  
BY REPRESENTATIVE DOWNER  
(SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 1312  
BY REPRESENTATIVE DOWNER)  
AN ACT**

To amend and reenact Chapter 6, Title 29 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 29:721 through 736, and to repeal R.S. 29:701 through 716, relative to civil defense and emergency preparedness; to provide for state and local civil defense and emergency preparedness agencies and the organization, powers, duties, functions, responsibilities, personnel, and funding thereof; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Chapter 6 of Title 29 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 29:721 through 736, is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 6. THE LOUISIANA EMERGENCY  
ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER ACT**

**§721. Short title**

This Chapter shall be cited as the Louisiana Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act.

**§722. Purpose**

A. Because of the existing possibility of the occurrence of emergencies and disasters of unprecedented size and destructiveness resulting from enemy attack, sabotage, or other hostile action, or from fire, flood, earthquake, or other natural or man-made causes, and in order to ensure that preparations of this state will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters, and generally to preserve

the lives and property of the people of the state of Louisiana, it is hereby found and declared to be necessary:

(1) To provide for designation of the Military Department, state of Louisiana, as the state emergency preparedness agency, and to authorize the creation of local organizations for emergency preparedness in the political subdivisions of the state.

(2) To confer upon the governor and upon the parish presidents the emergency powers provided in this Chapter.

(3) That statewide and local plans for emergency preparedness be prepared and approved without further delay and be maintained current to the maximum extent possible.

(4) To reduce vulnerability of people and communities of this state to damage, injury, and loss of life and property resulting from natural or man-made catastrophes, riots, or hostile military or paramilitary action.

(5) To prepare for prompt and efficient evacuation, rescue, care, and treatment of persons victimized or threatened by disasters or emergency.

(6) To provide a setting conducive to the rapid and orderly start of restoration and rehabilitation of persons and property affected by emergencies or disasters.

(7) To authorize and provide for cooperation in emergency or disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

(8) To authorize and provide for management systems embodied by coordination of activities relating to emergency or disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery by agencies and officers of this state, and similar state-local, interstate, and foreign activities in which the state and its political subdivisions may participate.

B. It is further declared to be the purpose of this Chapter and the policy of the state of Louisiana that all emergency preparedness functions of the state be coordinated to the maximum extent possible with the comparable functions of the federal government, other states and localities, and private agencies of every type, to the end that the most effec-

tive preparation and use may be made of the resources and facilities available for dealing with any emergency or disaster that may occur.

§723. Definitions

As used in this Chapter:

(1) "Disaster" means the result of a natural or man-made event which causes loss of life, injury, and property damage, including but not limited to natural disasters such as hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high winds, and other weather related events, forest and marsh fires, and man-made disasters, including but not limited to nuclear power plant incidents, hazardous materials incidents, oil spills, explosion, civil disturbances, public calamity, hostile military action, and other events related thereto.

(2) "Local governmental subdivision" means a parish of the state of Louisiana.

(3) "Emergency" means the actual or threatened condition which has been or may be created by a disaster.

(4) "Emergency preparedness" means the mitigation of, preparation for, response to, and the recovery from emergencies or disasters. The term "emergency preparedness" shall be synonymous with "civil defense", "emergency management", and other related programs of similar name.

(5) "Parish president" means the president of any parish, mayor-president, mayor of New Orleans (Orleans Parish), or police jury president.

§724. Powers of the governor

A. The governor is responsible for meeting the dangers to the state and people presented by emergencies or disasters, and in order to effectuate the provisions of this Chapter, the governor may issue executive orders, proclamations, and regulations and amend or rescind them. Executive orders, proclamations, and regulations so issued shall have the force and effect of law.

B. A disaster or emergency, or both, shall be declared by executive order or proclamation of the governor if he finds a disaster or emergency has occurred or the threat thereof is imminent. The state of disaster or emergency shall con-

tinue until the governor finds that the threat of danger has passed or the disaster or emergency has been dealt with to the extent that the emergency conditions no longer exist and terminates the state of disaster or emergency by executive order or proclamation, but no state of disaster or emergency may continue for longer than thirty days unless renewed by the governor. The legislature, by petition signed by a majority of the surviving members of either house, may terminate a state of disaster or emergency at any time. This petition terminating the state of emergency or disaster may establish a period during which no other declaration of emergency or disaster may be issued. Thereupon, the governor shall issue an executive order or proclamation ending the state of disaster or emergency. All executive orders or proclamations issued under this Subsection shall indicate the nature of the disaster or emergency, the area or areas which are or may be affected, and the conditions which have brought it about or which make possible termination of the state of disaster or emergency. An executive order or proclamation shall be disseminated promptly by means calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public and unless the circumstances attendant upon the disaster or emergency prevent or impede, promptly filed with the Military Department, state of Louisiana, office of emergency preparedness, and the secretary of state.

C. The declaration of an emergency or disaster by the governor shall activate the state's emergency response and recovery program under the command of the director of the state office of emergency preparedness.

D. In addition to any other powers conferred upon the governor by law, he may do any or all of the following:

(1) Suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business, or the orders, rules, or regulations of any state agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency.

(2) Utilize all available resources of the state govern-

ment and of each political subdivision of the state as reasonably necessary to cope with the disaster or emergency.

(3) Transfer the direction, personnel, or functions of state departments and agencies or units thereof for the purpose of performing or facilitating emergency services.

(4) Subject to any applicable requirements for compensation, commandeer or utilize any private property if he finds this necessary to cope with the disaster emergency.

(5) Direct and compel the evacuation of all or part of the population from any stricken or threatened area within the state if he deems this action necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response, or recovery.

(6) Prescribe routes, modes of transportation, and destination in connection with evacuation.

(7) Control ingress and egress to and from a disaster area, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises therein.

(8) Suspend or limit the sale, dispensing, or transportation of alcoholic beverages, firearms, explosives, and combustibles.

(9) Make provision for the availability and use of temporary emergency housing.

E. In the event of an emergency declared by the governor pursuant to this Chapter, any person or representative of any firm, partnership, or corporation violating any order, rule, or regulation promulgated pursuant to this Chapter, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or confined in the parish jail for not more than six months, or both. No executive order, proclamation, or regulation shall create or define a crime or fix penalties.

F. No organization for emergency preparedness established under this Chapter shall be employed directly or indirectly for political purposes.

§725. State emergency disaster agency; powers of adjutant general

A. The governor is hereby authorized and directed to designate the Military Department, state of Louisiana, as the state emergency preparedness agency under the adjutant general.

B. The office of emergency preparedness is hereby established within the Military Department.

C. The adjutant general shall be the director of the office of emergency preparedness and shall administer the state emergency preparedness agency and the provisions of this Chapter.

D. The adjutant general, as director of the office of emergency preparedness, may adopt and promulgate, pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act and his authority to promulgate rules and regulations for the National Guard, such rules and regulations as are necessary to implement his authority under the provisions of this Chapter and such authority as the governor shall delegate to him pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter.

E. The director may appoint an assistant director of the office of emergency preparedness to administer the provisions of this Chapter. The assistant director shall have and may exercise such powers and duties of the director related thereto as the director shall delegate to him.

F. The director may employ such professional, technical, clerical, stenographic, and other personnel and he shall fix their compensation and may make expenditures from available funds appropriated for the Military Department of the state or other funds made available to him for purposes of emergency preparedness as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Chapter. The director and the assistant director, if an assistant director is appointed, shall be provided with necessary and appropriate office space, furniture, equipment, supplies, stationery, and printing. The necessary mileage, office expenses, salaries of personnel, postage, telephone, and expressage shall be chargeable to any funds available for emergency preparedness.

G. The director, subject to the direction and control of the governor, shall be the executive head of the state emergency preparedness agency and as such shall be responsible to the governor for carrying out the programs for emergency preparedness for the state of Louisiana. He shall coordinate the activities of all organizations for emergency prepared-

ness within the state and shall maintain liaison with and cooperate with emergency preparedness agencies and organizations of other states and of the federal government.

§726. State emergency/disaster agency authorities and responsibilities

A. The Military Department, office of emergency preparedness, under the governor and the adjutant general, shall be responsible for emergency preparedness in the state.

B. The office shall prepare and maintain a state emergency operations plan and keep it current, which plan may include any of the following:

- (1) Prevention and minimization of injury and damage caused by disaster or emergency.
- (2) Prompt and effective response to disaster or emergency.
- (3) Emergency relief.
- (4) Identification of areas particularly vulnerable to disasters or emergency.
- (5) Recommendations for zoning, building, and other land use controls, safety measures for securing mobile homes or other nonpermanent or semipermanent structures, and other preventive and preparedness measures designed to eliminate or reduce disasters or their impact.
- (6) Assistance to local officials in designing local emergency action plans.
- (7) Authorization and procedures for the erection or other construction of temporary works designed to protect against or mitigate danger, damage, or loss from flood, conflagration, or other disaster.
- (8) Preparation and distribution to the appropriate state and local officials of catalogs of federal, state, and private assistance programs.
- (9) Organization of manpower and chains of command.
- (10) Coordination of federal, state, and local disaster or emergency activities.
- (11) Coordination of the state operations plan with the emergency plans of other state agencies, local government, and the federal government.

(12) All parish hazard plans, hurricane evacuation and shelter plans, hazard mitigation plans, emergency response plans, and such other emergency plans as required.

(13) Other necessary matters.

C. The office of emergency preparedness shall take an integral part in the development and revision of local and interjurisdictional emergency plans prepared under this Chapter. To this end it shall employ or otherwise secure the services of professional and technical personnel capable of providing expert assistance to political subdivisions, their emergency preparedness agencies, and interjurisdictional planning and emergency preparedness agencies. These personnel shall consult with subdivisions and agencies on a regularly scheduled basis and shall make field examinations of the areas, circumstances, and conditions to which particular local and interjurisdictional disaster plans are intended to apply, and may suggest or require revisions.

D. In preparing and revising the state emergency operations plan, the office shall seek the advice and assistance of local government, business, labor, industry, agriculture, civic and volunteer organizations, and community leaders. In advising local and interjurisdictional agencies, the office shall encourage them also to seek advice from these sources.

E. The office shall:

(1) Determine requirements of the state and its political subdivisions for food, clothing, and other necessities in the event of an emergency.

(2) Procure and pre-position supplies, medicines, materials, and equipment.

(3) Promulgate standards and requirements for local and interjurisdictional disaster plans.

(4) Periodically review local and interjurisdictional disaster plans.

(5) Provide for mobile support units.

(6) Assist political subdivisions, their emergency preparedness agencies, and interjurisdictional emergency preparedness agencies in establishing and operating training programs and programs of information.



(7) Make surveys of industries, resources, and facilities within the state, both public and private, as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this Chapter.

(8) Plan and make arrangements for the availability and use of any private facilities, services, and property and, if necessary and if in fact used, provide for payment for use under terms and conditions agreed upon.

(9) Establish a register of persons with types of training and skills important in emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

(10) Establish a register of mobile and construction equipment and temporary housing available for use in a disaster emergency.

(11) Prepare, for issuance by the governor, executive orders, proclamations, and regulations as necessary or appropriate in coping with disasters or emergencies.

(12) Cooperate with the federal government and any public or private agency or entity in achieving any purpose of this Chapter and in implementing programs for disaster emergency mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery.

(13) Do other things necessary, incidental, or appropriate for the implementation of this Chapter.

F. The Military Department, state of Louisiana, shall ascertain what means exist for rapid communications in times of disaster emergencies, shall consider the desirability of supplementing these communications resources or of integrating them into a comprehensive state or state-federal telecommunication or other communications system or its several parts, shall evaluate the possibility of multipurpose use thereof for general state and local governmental purposes, and shall make recommendations to the governor as appropriate.

§727. Powers of the parish president; penalties for violations

A. Each political subdivision within this state shall be within the jurisdiction of and served by the Military Department, office of emergency preparedness, for purposes of emergency preparedness and by a parish emergency

preparedness agency responsible for emergency or disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

B. Each parish president is hereby authorized and directed to establish an office of emergency preparedness for the respective parish.

C. Each parish president shall maintain an emergency preparedness agency which, except as otherwise provided under this Chapter, has jurisdiction over and serves the entire parish.

D. A local disaster or emergency may be declared only by the parish president. The state of emergency shall continue until the parish president finds that the threat of danger has been dealt with to the extent that emergency conditions no longer exist. The state of emergency may be terminated by executive order or proclamation, but no state of emergency may continue for longer than thirty days unless extended by the parish president. The state of emergency or disaster may be terminated by the governor, a petition signed by a majority of the surviving members of either house of the legislature, or a majority of the surviving members of the parish governing authority. The document terminating the state of emergency or disaster may establish a period during which no other declaration of emergency or disaster may be issued. All executive orders or proclamations issued under this Subsection shall indicate the nature of the emergency, the area or areas which are or may be affected, and the conditions which brought it about. Any order or proclamation declaring, continuing, or terminating a local disaster or emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the office of emergency preparedness and the office of the clerk of court.

E. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter, when the parish president declares a local disaster or emergency within such subdivision the parish president shall carry out the provisions of this Chapter. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to confer upon the parish president any authority to control or direct the activities of any state agency. When the disaster or emergency is beyond the

capabilities of the local government, the parish president shall request assistance from the state office of emergency preparedness. The declaration of a local emergency will serve to activate the response and recovery program of the local government.

F. In addition to any other powers conferred upon the parish president by the constitution, laws, or by a home rule charter or plan of government, such authority may do any or all of the following:

(1) Suspend the provisions of any regulatory ordinance prescribing the procedures for conduct of local business, or the orders, rules, or regulations of any local agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any ordinance, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency.

(2) Utilize all available resources of the local government as reasonably necessary to cope with the local disaster or emergency.

(3) Transfer the direction, personnel, or functions of local departments and agencies or units thereof for the purpose of performing or facilitating emergency services.

(4) Subject to any applicable requirements for compensation, commandeer or utilize any private property if he finds this necessary to cope with the local disaster.

(5) Direct and compel the evacuation of all or part of the population from any stricken or threatened area within the boundaries of the parish if he deems this action necessary for mitigation, response, or recovery measures.

(6) Prescribe routes, modes of transportation, and destinations in connection with evacuation within the local government's jurisdiction.

(7) Control ingress and egress to and from the affected area, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises therein.

(8) Suspend or limit the sale, dispensing, or transportation of alcoholic beverages, firearms, explosives, and combustibles.

G. In the event of an emergency declared by the parish president pursuant to this Chapter, any person or repre-

sentative of any firm, partnership, or corporation violating any order, rule, or regulation promulgated pursuant to this Chapter, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars, or confined in the parish jail for not more than six months, or both.

H. No organization for emergency preparedness established under this Chapter shall be employed directly or indirectly for political purposes.

§728. Parish emergency/disaster agency

A. Each parish office of emergency preparedness thus created shall have a director who shall be appointed by the parish president of the parish establishing such organization and each director shall be commissioned by the director of the state office of emergency preparedness. The parish director thus appointed and commissioned shall serve at the pleasure of the parish president.

B. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to prevent the parish president from serving as the director.

C. The director of the parish office of emergency preparedness shall have direct responsibility for the organization, administration, and operation of such local organization for emergency preparedness subject to the direction and control of the parish president under the general direction and control of the governor and the state office of emergency preparedness.

D. The director of the parish office of emergency preparedness shall take and subscribe to the following oath:

"I \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the state of Louisiana, and the territory, institutions, and facilities thereof, both public and private, against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservations or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties on which I am about to enter and I do further swear (or affirm) that I do not advocate, nor am I a member of any political party organization that advocates, the overthrow of the government of the United

States or of this state by force or violence; and that during such time as I am a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ (parish) office of emergency preparedness, I will not advocate nor become a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or of this state by force or violence.”

E. The director may appoint an assistant director to administer the provisions of this Chapter. The assistant director shall have and may exercise such powers and duties of the director related thereto as the director shall delegate to him.

F. The parish president may authorize the director to employ such professional, technical, clerical, stenographic, and other personnel and he shall fix their compensation and may make expenditures from available funds appropriated or authorized by the state for purposes of emergency preparedness as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Chapter. The director and the assistant director, if an assistant director is appointed, shall be provided with necessary and appropriate office space, furniture, equipment, supplies, stationery, and printing. The necessary mileage, office expenses, salaries of personnel, postage, telephone, and expressage shall be chargeable to any funds available for emergency preparedness.

§729. Parish emergency/disaster agency authorities and responsibilities

A. The parish office of emergency preparedness, under the parish president, shall be responsible for emergency preparedness in the parish.

B. The parish office of emergency preparedness shall prepare and maintain an all hazards emergency operations plan and keep it current, which plan may include any of the following:

- (1) Prevention and minimization of injury and damage caused by disaster or emergency.
- (2) Prompt and effective response to disaster or emergency.
- (3) Emergency relief.

(4) Identification of areas particularly vulnerable to disasters or emergency.

(5) Recommendations for zoning, building, and other land use controls, safety measures for securing mobile homes or other nonpermanent or semipermanent structures, and other preventive and preparedness measures designed to eliminate or reduce disasters or their impact.

(6) Assistance to local officials in designing local emergency action plans.

(7) Authorization and procedures for the erection or other construction of temporary works designed to protect against or mitigate danger, damage, or loss from flood, conflagration, or other disaster.

(8) Preparation and distribution to the appropriate state and local officials of catalogs of federal, state, and private assistance programs.

(9) Organization of manpower and chains of command.

(10) Coordination of federal, state, and local disaster or emergency activities.

(11) Coordination of the state operations plan with the emergency plans of other state agencies, local government, and the federal government.

(12) Other necessary matters.

C. The parish office of emergency preparedness shall take an integral part in the development and revision of local and interjurisdictional emergency plans prepared under this Chapter. To this end, it shall employ or otherwise secure the services of professional and technical personnel capable of providing expert assistance to political subdivisions, their emergency preparedness agencies, and interjurisdictional planning and emergency preparedness agencies. These personnel shall consult with subdivisions and agencies on a regularly scheduled basis and shall make field examinations of the areas, circumstances, and conditions to which particular local and interjurisdictional disaster plans are intended to apply, and may suggest or require revisions.

D. In preparing and revising the plan, the parish office of emergency preparedness shall seek the advice and assist-

ance of government, business, labor, industry, agriculture, civic, and volunteer organizations, and community leaders.

E. The parish office of emergency preparedness shall:

- (1) Determine requirements of the parish and its political subdivisions for food, clothing, and other necessities in event of an emergency.
- (2) Procure and pre-position supplies, medicines, materials, and equipment.
- (3) Promulgate standards and requirements for local and interjurisdictional disaster plans.
- (4) Periodically review local and interjurisdictional disaster plans.
- (5) Provide for mobile support units.
- (6) Assist political subdivisions, their emergency preparedness agencies and interjurisdictional emergency preparedness agencies, in establishing and operating training programs and programs of information.
- (7) Make surveys of industries, resources, and facilities within the parish, both public and private, as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this Chapter.
- (8) Plan and make arrangements for the availability and use of any private facilities, services, and property and, if necessary and if in fact used, provide for payment for use under terms and conditions agreed upon.
- (9) Establish a register of persons with types of training and skills important in emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.
- (10) Establish a register of mobile and construction equipment and temporary housing available for use in a disaster emergency.
- (11) Prepare, for issuance by the parish president, executive orders, proclamations, and regulations as necessary or appropriate in coping with disasters or emergencies.
- (12) Cooperate with the state and federal government and any public or private agency or entity in achieving any purpose of this Chapter and in implementing programs for disaster emergency mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery.
- (13) Do other things necessary, incidental, or appropriate

for the implementation of this Chapter.

§730. Interjurisdictional emergency preparedness agency

A. The governing authorities of any two or more parishes may enter into agreements, under which they shall be authorized to establish regional organizations for emergency preparedness. Such agreements shall include plans, programs, administration, personnel, unified operation, allotment of available equipment, and distribution of costs and funds.

B. Interjurisdictional emergency preparedness agencies shall prepare and distribute to all appropriate officials, in written form, a clear and complete statement of the emergency responsibilities of all local agencies and officials and of the disaster chain of command.

C. Political subdivisions not participating in interjurisdictional arrangements pursuant to this Chapter nevertheless shall be encouraged and assisted by the Military Department, state of Louisiana, to conclude suitable arrangements for furnishing mutual aid in coping with disasters. The arrangements shall include provision of aid by persons and units in public employ.

D. No personal services may be compensated by the state or any subdivision or an agency thereof, except pursuant to statute or local ordinance.

E. Compensation for property shall be paid only if the property was commandeered or otherwise used in coping with a disaster emergency and its use, damage, or destruction was ordered by the governor or a member of the disaster emergency forces of this state.

F. Any person claiming compensation for the use, damages, loss, or destruction of property under this Chapter shall file a claim therefor with the authority which ordered the use or caused the loss of destruction of the property.

G. Unless the amount of compensation on account of property damaged, lost, or destroyed is agreed between the claimant and the authority which ordered the use or caused the damage, the amount of compensation shall be calculated in the same manner as compensation due for a taking of



property pursuant to the condemnation laws of this state.

H. Nothing in this Section applies to or authorizes compensation for the destruction or damaging of standing timber or other property in order to provide a fire break, or to the release of waters or the breach of impoundments in order to reduce pressure or other danger from actual or threatened flood.

§731. Financing

A. It is the intent of the legislature and declared to be the policy of the state that funds to meet disaster emergencies shall always be available.

B. The disaster emergency funding board is established, composed of the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and the chairmen of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee.

C. It is the intent of the legislature that the first recourse shall be to funds regularly appropriated to state agencies. If the governor finds that the demands placed upon these funds in coping with a particular disaster are unreasonably great, with the concurrence of the disaster emergency funding board, he may make funds available by transferring and expending monies appropriated for other purposes or may borrow for a term not to exceed two years from the United States government or any other public or private source. Action pursuant to this Subsection shall be only with the concurrence of the disaster emergency funding board.

D. Nothing contained in this Section shall be construed to limit the governor's authority to apply for, administer, and expend any grants, gifts, or payments in aid of disaster prevention, preparedness, response, or recovery.

§732. Price gouging; prohibited

A. During a state of emergency as declared by the governor or as declared by the parish president, the value received for goods and services sold within the designated emergency area may not exceed the prices ordinarily charged for comparable goods and services in the same market area at, or immediately before, the time of the state of emergency. However, the value received may include

reasonable expenses and a charge for any attendant business risk, in addition to the cost of the goods and services which necessarily are incurred in procuring the goods and services during the state of emergency.

B. Each sale or offer for sale in violation of this Section constitutes a separate offense.

C. The penalties provided in R.S. 29:734 are in addition to civil remedies provided by law, including attorney's fees.

D. Local governing authorities may adopt appropriate ordinances to implement the provisions of this Section.

§733. Interstate Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Compact

A. This state enacts into law and enters into the Interstate Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Compact with all states, as defined therein, which states have enacted or shall hereafter enact the compact in the form substantially as follows:

B. The Interstate Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Compact, heretofore in force in this state by virtue of execution pursuant to this Chapter, is hereby confirmed and codified. The compact is and shall hereafter be in effect with any and all jurisdictions which have joined or which may hereafter legally join therein in the form substantially as contained in this Section, provided that such other jurisdiction or jurisdictions have signified their joinder with this state by enactment without limitation as to parties or in some other manner sufficient in law to make it clear that joinder has been effected with this state.

C. The contracting states solemnly agree:

Article 1. The purpose of this compact is to provide mutual aid among the states in meeting an emergency or disaster. The prompt, full, and effective utilization of the resources of the respective states, including such resources as may be available from the United States government or any other source, are essential to the safety, care, and welfare of the people thereof, including personnel, equipment, or supplies, shall be incorporated into a plan or plans of mutual aid to be developed among the emergency preparedness agencies or similar bodies of the states that are parties

hereto. The directors of emergency preparedness of all party states shall constitute a committee to formulate plans to take all necessary steps for the implementation of this compact.

Article 2. It shall be the duty of each party state to formulate plans and programs for application within such state. There shall be frequent consultation between the representatives of the states and with the United States government and the free exchange of information and plans, including inventories of any materials and equipment available. In carrying out such plans and programs the party states shall, so far as possible, provide and follow uniform standards, practices, and rules and regulations.

Article 3. Any party state requested to render mutual aid shall take such action as is necessary to provide and make available the resources covered by this compact in accordance with the terms hereof; provided that it is understood that the state rendering aid may withhold resources to the extent necessary to provide reasonable protection for such state. Each party state shall extend to the civil defense forces of any other party state, while operating within its state limits under the terms and conditions of this compact, the same powers (except that of arrest unless specifically authorized by the receiving state), duties, rights, privileges, and immunities as if they were performing their duties in the state in which normally employed or rendering services.

Article 4. Whenever any person holds a license, certificate, or other permit issued by any state evidencing the meeting of qualifications for professional, mechanical, or other skills, such person may render aid involving such skill in any party state to meet an emergency or disaster and such state shall give due recognition to such license, certificate, or other permit as if issued in the state in which aid is rendered.

Article 5. No party state or its officers or employees rendering aid in another state pursuant to this compact shall be liable on account of any act or omission in good faith on the part of such forces while so engaged, or on account of the

maintenance or use of any equipment or supplies in connection therewith.

Article 6. Inasmuch as it is probable that the pattern and detail of the machinery for mutual aid among two or more states may differ from that appropriate among other states party hereto, this instrument contains elements of a broad base common to all states, and nothing herein contained shall preclude any state from entering into supplementary agreements with another state or states. Such supplementary agreements may comprehend but shall not be limited to provisions for evacuation and reception of injured and other persons, and the exchange of medical, fire, police, public utility, reconnaissance, welfare, transportation and communications personnel, equipment, and supplies.

Article 7. Each party state shall provide for the payment of compensation and death benefits to injured members of the response forces of that state and the representatives of deceased members of such forces in case such members sustain injuries or are killed while rendering aid pursuant to this compact, in the same manner and on the same terms as if the injury or death were sustained within such state.

Article 8. Any party state rendering aid in another state pursuant to this compact shall be reimbursed by the party state receiving such aid for any loss or damage to, or expense incurred in the operation of any equipment answering a request for aid, and for the cost incurred in connection with such request; however, any aiding party state may assume in whole or in part such loss, damage, expense, or other cost, or may loan such equipment or donate such services to the receiving party state without charge or cost, and any two or more party states may enter into supplementary agreements establishing a different allocation of costs as among those states. The United States government may relieve the party state receiving aid from any liability and reimburse the party state supplying forces for the compensation paid to and the transportation, subsistence, and maintenance expense of such forces during the time of the rendition of such aid or assistance outside the state and may also pay fair and reasonable compensation for the use or

utilization of the supplies, materials, equipment, or facilities so utilized or consumed.

Article 9. Plans for the orderly evacuation and reception of the civilian population as the result of an emergency or disaster shall be worked out from time to time between representatives of the party states and the various local areas thereof. Such plans shall include the manner of transporting such evacuees, the number of evacuees to be received in different areas, the manner in which food, clothing, housing, and medical care will be provided, the registration of the evacuees, the providing of facilities for the notification of relatives or friends, and the forwarding of such evacuees to other areas or the bringing in of additional materials and supplies, and all other relevant factors. Such plans shall provide that the party state receiving evacuees shall be reimbursed generally for the out-of-pocket expenses incurred in receiving and caring for such evacuees for expenditures for transportation, food, clothing, medicines and medical care, and like items. Such expenditures shall be reimbursed by the party state of which the evacuees are residents, or by the United States government under plans approved by it. After the termination of the emergency or disaster the party state of which the evacuees are residents shall assume the responsibility for the ultimate support or repatriation of such evacuees.

Article 10. This compact shall be available to any state, territory, or possession of the United States, and the District of Columbia. The term "state" may also include any neighboring foreign country or province or state thereof.

Article 11. The committee established pursuant to Article 1 of this compact may request the Federal Emergency Management Agency to act as an informational and coordinating body under this compact, and representatives of such agency of the United States government may attend meetings of such committee.

Article 12. This compact shall become operative immediately upon its ratification by any state as between it and any other state or states so ratifying and shall be subject to approval by congress unless prior congressional approval

has been given. Duly authenticated copies of this compact and of such supplementary agreements as may be entered into shall, at the time of their approval, be deposited with each of the party states and emergency preparedness agency and other appropriate agencies of the United States government.

Article 13. This compact shall continue in force and remain binding on each party state until the legislature or the governor of such party state takes action to withdraw therefrom. Such action shall not be effective until thirty days after notice thereof has been sent by the governor of the party state desiring to withdraw to the governors of all other party states.

Article 14. This compact shall be constructed to effectuate the purposes stated in Article 1 hereof. If any provision of this compact is declared unconstitutional, or the applicability thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the constitutionality of the remainder of this compact and the applicability of other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Article 15.(a) This Article shall be in effect only as among those states which have enacted it into law or in which the governors have adopted it pursuant to constitutional or statutory authority sufficient to give it the force of law as part of this compact or any obligation undertaken by a state pursuant thereto, except that if its terms so provide, a supplementary agreement in implementation of this Article may modify, expand, or add to any such obligation as among the parties to the supplementary agreement.

(b) In addition to the occurrences, circumstances, and subject matter to which preceding Articles of this compact make it applicable, this compact and the authorizations, entitlement, and procedures thereof shall apply to:

- (i) Searches for and rescue of persons who are lost, marooned, or otherwise in danger.
- (ii) Action useful in coping with emergencies or disasters arising from any cause or designed to increase the capacity to cope with any such emergencies or disasters.
- (iii) Incidents, or the imminence thereof, which endanger

the health or safety of the public and which require the use of special equipment, trained personnel in larger numbers than are locally available in order to reduce, counteract, or remove the danger.

(iv) The giving and receiving of aid by subdivisions of party states.

(v) Exercises, drills or other training or practice activities designed to aid personnel to prepare for, cope with, or prevent any disaster or other emergency to which this compact applies.

(c) Except as expressly limited by this compact or a supplementary agreement in force pursuant thereto, any aid authorized by this compact or such supplementary agreement may be furnished by any agency of a party state, a subdivision of such state, or by a joint agency providing such aid shall be entitled to reimbursement therefor to the same extent and in the same manner as a state. The personnel of such joint agency, when rendering aid pursuant to this compact shall have the same rights, authority, and immunity as personnel of party states.

(d) Nothing in this Article shall be construed to exclude from the coverage of Articles 1-14 of this compact any matter which, in the absence of this Article, could reasonably be construed to be covered thereby.

§734. Violations; judicial relief; prima facie proof

A. Upon a violation of R.S. 29:732, the attorney general, district attorney, or parish attorney may bring the appropriate judicial action for an order enjoining or restraining commission or continuance of the alleged unlawful acts. In any such proceeding, the court may impose a civil penalty and, where appropriate, order restitution to aggrieved consumers.

B. In any proceeding instituted pursuant to this Section, the following shall constitute prima facie proof of a violation:

(1) Evidence that the amount charged represents a gross disparity between the price of the goods or services which were the subject of the transaction and their value, measured by the price at which such goods or services were sold

or offered for sale by the merchant in the usual course of business immediately prior to the onset of the abnormal disruption of the market, and the amount charged by the merchant was not attributable to additional costs imposed by its suppliers.

(2) Evidence that the amount charged grossly exceeded the price at which the same or similar goods or services were readily obtainable by other consumers in the trade area and the amount charged by the merchant was not attributable to additional costs imposed by its suppliers.

C. In addition to the civil penalties provided herein, any person who violates the provisions of R.S. 29:732, which violation is deemed a violation also of R.S. 14:329.6, shall be subject to criminal penalties as provided in R.S. 14:329.7.

§735. Immunity of personnel

A. Neither the state nor any political subdivision thereof, nor other agencies, nor, except in case of willful misconduct, the agents' employees, or representatives of any of them, engaged in any emergency preparedness activities, while complying with or attempting to comply with this Chapter or any rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter shall be liable for the death of or any injury to persons, or damage to property, as a result of such activity.

B. The provisions of this Section shall not affect the right of any person to receive benefits to which he would otherwise be entitled under this Chapter, or under the worker's compensation law, or under any pension law, nor the right of any such person to receive any benefits or compensation under any act of congress.

§736. Exclusion

A. Nothing herein shall supersede the powers, duties, and authorities of the Department of Environmental Quality, as provided for by R.S. 30:2001 et seq. and regulations issued pursuant thereto.

B. Nothing herein shall supersede the powers, duties, and authority of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police, as prescribed by R.S. 30:2376(B).



C. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, nothing in this Chapter shall affect the exclusive authority of the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator regarding oil spill prevention, planning, response, removal, liability, and the limitations of liability provided for in the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act, R.S. 30:2451 et seq.

D. Nothing in this Act shall be interpreted to diminish the rights guaranteed to all persons under the Declaration of Rights of the Louisiana Constitution or the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution. This Act shall not violate Article II (Distribution of Powers), Article III (Legislative Branch), or Article V (Judicial Branch) of the Louisiana Constitution. The courts shall be open, and every person shall have an adequate remedy by due process of law and justice, administered without denial, partiality, or unreasonable delay, for injury to him in his person, property, reputation, or other rights. The orders of all courts shall have their full force and effect. The legislature may call itself into session at any time and shall exercise its powers and duties. Its ability to enact law, appropriate funds, and confirm appointees shall be in full force. The privileges and immunities of legislators shall be respected.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided in Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

Section 3. R.S. 29:701 through 716 are hereby repealed in their entirety.

Approved by the Governor, June 22, 1993.

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A true copy:

W. Fox McKeithen  
Secretary of State

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