

ACT No. 313

HOUSE BILL NO. 479

BY REPRESENTATIVES GRAY, BADON, BARROW, BAUDOIN, BAYLOR, BRUCE, BURRELL, CAZAYOUX, CURTIS, DAMICO, DANIEL, DORSEY, DURAND, FARRAR, GALLOT, ELCIE GUILLORY, HARRIS, HEBERT, HONEY, HUNTER, JACKSON, JEFFERSON, JOHNS, KENNEY, LAFONTA, MONTGOMERY, MORRISH, PIERRE, PINAC, T. POWELL, QUEZAIRE, RICHMOND, SALTER, JACK SMITH, JOHN SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, THOMPSON, TOWNSEND, WALKER, AND WOOTON AND SENATORS ADLEY, BROOME, CRAVINS, DUPLESSIS, FIELDS, B. GAUTREAU, HOLLIS, JONES, MARIONNEAUX, MURRAY, SCHEDLER, AND SHEPHERD

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

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 29:726.1, relative to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency
3 Assistance and Disaster Act; to provide legislative intent; to authorize inclusion of
4 nongovernmental nonprofit organizations in the delivery of public services related
5 to emergencies and disasters; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 29:726.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §726.1. Nongovernmental participation in the state recovery from public
9 emergencies and disasters; Louisiana Family Recovery Corps

10 A. The provisions of this Chapter detail state plans and responsibilities for
11 the protection and assistance of Louisiana citizens with regard to potential and actual
12 public disasters and emergencies. The legislature finds that the resources of
13 nongovernmental nonprofit organizations can contribute greatly to the state's
14 formalized framework for implementation of the requirements of this Chapter.
15 Inclusion of the efforts of nongovernmental nonprofit organizations in the state's
16 emergency preparedness, response, and recovery plans to the greatest extent
17 practicable is encouraged.

18 B.(1) There exists in Louisiana a nongovernmental entity known as the
19 "Louisiana Family Recovery Corps", hereinafter referred to as the "Recovery Corps",

1 which was established in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to provide
2 and coordinate the services needed by Louisiana citizens displaced and affected by
3 those disasters. In furtherance of the public purpose to provide a complete and
4 efficient state recovery from emergencies and disasters, the state may utilize the
5 resources of the Recovery Corps for coordination and delivery of public and
6 nonpublic services for purposes of human recovery from disasters.

7 (2) The Recovery Corps may specifically assist the state effort by:

8 (a) Coordinating collaboration in execution of service delivery.

9 (b) Communicating the availability of all services related to disaster
10 recovery.

11 (c) Creation of a registry of nongovernmental nonprofit providers of
12 recovery-related services, and provision of data relating to that registry to state and
13 local recovery agencies as deemed necessary by such agencies. Nongovernmental
14 nonprofit providers of recovery-related services owned or operated by an elected
15 official shall not be included in the registry.

16 (d) Provision of household establishment resources for displaced residents.

17 (e) Services relating to the emotional well-being of displaced residents.

18 (f) Transitioning displaced residents from temporary to more permanent
19 living arrangements.

20 (g) Assisting in reestablishing social and community service infrastructures
21 within heavily damaged areas.

22 (h) Assisting in repatriation of displaced residents.

23 (3) The legislature finds that the utilization of the resources of the Recovery
24 Corps may be particularly beneficial with respect to the delivery of services in:

25 (a) Geographic areas that have suffered significant impact to the extent that
26 pre-disaster service providers or services are no longer available, or unavailable at
27 the necessary levels.

28 (b) Geographic areas that suffered a rise in service demands due to relocation
29 of displaced residents to a new area to the extent that service capacity has or is being
30 mitigated.

1 (c) Geographic areas that need specialized services for displaced residents
2 to address specific human services service deficiencies in a localized area.

3 (4) Any participation by the Recovery Corps in the state's homeland security
4 and emergency operations shall be focused on human services or post-disaster
5 recovery.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____