



**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 24-13**

***CONSOLIDATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY
RELATED EXECUTIVE BRANCH FUNCTIONS, POWERS,
DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES***

WHEREAS, La. Const. art. IV § 1, requires that all offices, agencies, and other instrumentalities of the executive branch along with their functions, powers, duties, and responsibilities not located within the office of governor or lieutenant governor shall be allocated according to function within not more than twenty (20) departments;

WHEREAS, since the adoption of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, the law has created additional powers, duties, and responsibilities in the executive branch;

WHEREAS, due to this slow accretion of new programs, offices, and agencies, and due to the changes to Louisiana, its people, and the challenges faced since 1974, a reorganization of executive branch offices, agencies, and other instrumentalities and their functions, powers, duties, and responsibilities is needed to enhance government efficiency by streamlining, optimizing, and modernizing Louisiana's executive branch of state government;

WHEREAS, in addition to programs overseen by the secretaries of the 20 executive branch departments, there are now over 450 boards and commissions within state government;

WHEREAS, the ever-increasing number of offices, boards, and commissions in state government can cause related governmental functions to be isolated unnecessarily, thereby creating inefficiencies and confusion for members of the public, industry, and the government itself;

WHEREAS, areas concerning the State's natural resources and energy industries continue to experience substantial growth;

WHEREAS, the Legislature set forth in R.S. 36:2 that,

It is the public policy of this State ...to create a structure for the executive branch of state government which is responsive to the needs of the people of this State and which is sufficiently flexible to meet changing human and natural conditions; to promote economy and efficiency in the operation and management of state government and to strengthen the executive capacity for effective, efficient, and economic administration at all levels; to improve the quality of the functions performed and the programs and services rendered by the state government for the citizens of the state; to conserve and enhance the human and natural resources of the state; to provide that the responsibility of the respective departments for the implementation of programs and policies is clearly fixed and ascertainable; and to eliminate to the fullest practicable extent duplication of effort within the executive branch of state government in order to use wisely the funds of the state and more conveniently to meet the needs of the citizens of Louisiana which are supported by revenues derived from the people and from the natural resources belonging to them.

and

It is the further intent of the legislature that the reorganization of the executive branch of state government shall be accomplished with the least possible disruption of governmental services and the least possible expenditure of public moneys and that all officials and employees participating in the effectuation of such reorganization shall at all times be charged with the responsibility for carrying out the intent herein stated.

WHEREAS, the goals of this administration relating to natural resources and energy project implementation, regulation, and management are to create a better prospective business climate; promote a balanced approach to permitting, management, and enforcement so as to ensure protection of the State's resources; create a transparent regulatory environment; and reduce redundancy;

WHEREAS, it is important that boards and commissions serve a constitutionally or statutorily defined purpose and better represent this State's population and interests with appropriate legislative and executive oversight; and

WHEREAS, the powers, authorities, and responsibilities related to natural resources and energy that have been granted to the executive branch should be centrally located within the executive branch to accomplish the constitutional or statutory duties assigned to them and in a manner to increase government efficiency, fairness, and transparency.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JEFF LANDRY, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

Section 1: The Secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources (hereinafter referred to as “the Secretary”) is directed to review and consider ways to reorganize the offices, agencies, and authorities of his department on a functional basis;

Section 2: The Secretary is directed to review and consider ways to better coordinate and consolidate within the Department of Energy and Natural Resources the functions, powers, duties, and responsibilities of the executive branch dealing with natural resources and energy, specifically focusing on consolidating and reorganizing the following offices and agencies within his department: the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the Louisiana Oil-Spill Coordinator’s Office, and the Office of State Lands;

Section 3: The Secretary is directed to review and consider ways to better coordinate and consolidate or reorganize the functions, powers, duties, and responsibilities of State boards and commissions dealing with natural resources and energy matters, to include, but not limited to, the Advisory Commission for Louisiana’s Energy, Environment, and Restoration, the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District, the Climate Initiatives Task Force, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board, the Emerging Energy Codification Task Force, the Governor’s Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration, and Conservation, the Governor’s Advisory Task Force on Atchafalaya River Basin Restoration and Enhancement, the Oilfield Site Restoration Commission, the State Mineral and Energy Board, the Oyster Lease Damage Evaluation Board, Sparta Groundwater Conservation District, and The Water Resources Commission;

Section 4: Based on the reviews and considerations required by Sections 1 – 3 of this order, the Secretary is to report back to my office recommendations on how best to consolidate and reorganize the offices, agencies, boards, and commissions of the executive branch with the first report being due no later than Friday, February 23, 2024, with subsequent reports being due on a schedule and frequency as directed;

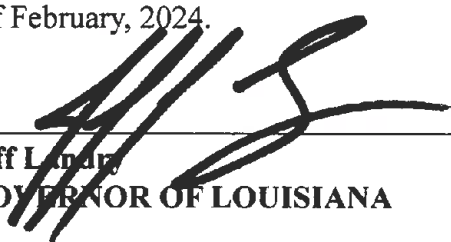
Section 5: In carrying out the review and recommendations directed by Sections 1 – 4 of this order, the Secretary shall seek to address the goals set forth in the recitals of this order; furthermore the Secretary shall work to improve coordination within his department and across agencies consistent with these goals until consolidation and reorganization have been accomplished;

Section 6: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the State, or any political subdivision thereof are authorized and directed to cooperate fully with and respond to all requests for information made by the Secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources and such department staff as may be designated by the Secretary in the implementation of this order; and

Section 7: This order is effective upon signature and shall continue in effect until July 31, 2024, unless amended, modified, or terminated sooner.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the city of Baton Rouge, on this 1st day of February, 2024.



Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY
OF STATE**



Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE