

State of Louisiana



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 25-031

RENEWAL OF STATE OF EMERGENCY WINTER WEATHER – JANUARY 18, 2025

WHEREAS, the Governor is responsible for meeting the dangers to the state and people presented by emergencies and disasters;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to address disasters resulting from natural or man-made events that cause or threaten loss of life, injury, or property damage, as well as emergencies, which include actual or potential conditions created by such disasters, in order to ensure that preparations of this State will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, R.S. 29:724(B) (1) empowers him to declare a state of emergency or disaster by executive order, which has the force and effect of law;

WHEREAS, R.S. 29:724 authorizes the Governor during a declared state of emergency to suspend the provisions of any state regulatory statute prescribing procedures for conducting state business, or the orders, rules, or regulations of any state agency, if strict compliance with the provision of any statute, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency;

WHEREAS, a declaration of emergency or disaster activates the state's emergency response and recovery program under the command of the director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness ("GOHSEP");

WHEREAS, GOHSEP is responsible for determining the requirements of the state and its political subdivisions for food, clothing, and other necessities and supplies in a designated emergency area;

WHEREAS, the State experienced winter weather which resulted in extreme cold temperatures, wind chills, and prolonged temperatures below freezing for much of the area from January 20, 2025, through January 24, 2025;

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service issued cold weather advisories and extreme cold warnings for the State beginning Monday, January 20, 2025, and advised people to minimize time outdoors and prepare for power outages;

WHEREAS, much of South Louisiana received 4 to 8 inches of snowfall with isolated areas reporting 12 inches or more making this the second-largest snow event on record and the biggest snow event since February of 1895;

WHEREAS, the winter weather brought below-freezing temperatures with temperatures in the single digits across southern Louisiana;

WHEREAS, the cold winter air persisted for seven days across northern Louisiana (January 19-January 25) with freezes recorded on five consecutive days as far south as New Iberia;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana recognizes the need for direct state assistance to supplement and support operational measures at the parish level, enabling more effective coordination, deployment of resources, and provision of essential services to mitigate the ongoing effects of the event;

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, order and direct as follows:

Section 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, a state of emergency is hereby declared to exist as a result of the emergency conditions that currently threaten the lives, safety, and property of the citizens in Louisiana.

Section 2: Pursuant to R.S. 29:724 (A) (3) the designated emergency area, which is or may be affected shall include the entire State of Louisiana.

Section 3: The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law that he deems appropriate in response to this declaration.

Section 4: Pursuant to R.S. 29:732, during a declared state of emergency, the prices charged or 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, unless the price by the seller is attributable to fluctuations in applicable commodity markets, fluctuations in applicable regional or national market trends, or to reasonable expenses and charges and attendant business risk incurred in procuring or selling the goods or services during the state of emergency.

Section 5: Pursuant to R.S. 29:724(D)(1), the Louisiana Procurement Code (R.S. 39:1551, *et seq.*) and Louisiana Public Bid Law (R.S. 38:2211, *et seq.*) and their corresponding rules and regulations are hereby suspended for the purpose of the procurement of any good or services necessary to respond to this emergency, including emergency contracts, cooperative endeavor agreements, and any other emergency amendments to existing contracts.

Section 6: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the State, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in response to this event.

Section 7: This Order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect from Wednesday, March 19, 2025, until Friday, April 18, 2025, unless amended, modified, terminated, or rescinded earlier by the Governor, or terminated by operation of law.



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 19th day of March, 2025.

JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE