



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 26-068

STATE OF EMERGENCY
TROPICAL STORM BERTHA– JULY 22, 2026

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, La. 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 the 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, the state of Louisiana desires to promote and protect the health, safety, and well-being of evacuees from Tropical Storm Bertha and specifically those evacuees needing nursing facility services;

WHEREAS, R.S. 40:2116.1(B)(1) prohibits the Department of Health from approving additional beds in nursing facilities;

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana desires that residents and evacuees in nursing facilities be able to temporarily evacuate to safe sheltering locations during an 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 National Weather Service forecasts that Tropical Storm Bertha will bring tropical storm force winds and localized flooding to Louisiana's coastal parishes over the next several days;

WHEREAS, many parishes have declared states of emergency and are executing their emergency operations plans to conduct emergency protective measures; and

WHEREAS, some parishes may require assistance from the State to provide resources to protect the life, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Louisiana, especially those parishes conducting search and rescue, evacuations, and sheltering operations;

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 is the 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: The provisions of La. R.S. 40:2116.1(B)(1) are hereby suspended for the purpose of allowing the Secretary of the Department of Health and the Louisiana Surgeon General, at their discretion, to establish such protocols, policies, and procedures as to allow a licensed nursing facility which accepts or receives evacuated residents to temporarily exceed its licensed bed capacity in the event of a declared emergency. The Secretary of the Department of Health and/or the Louisiana Surgeon General may establish such protocols, policies, and procedures without strict compliance with the requirements and provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act.

Section 7: 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 8: This Order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect from Wednesday, July 22, 2026 until Wednesday, August 5, 2026, 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 22nd day of July 2026.


JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE**


Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE