State of Louisiana

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 26-111

RENEWAL OF STATE OF EMERGENCY MAXIMUM SECURITY CAMP J REPAIRS AND OPERATION LOUISIANA STATE PENITENTIARY

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, pursuant to R.S. 29:724(B)(1), Governor Jeff Landry declared a state of emergency on July 25, 2025, in Executive Order JML 25-084;

WHEREAS, Executive Order JML 25-084 has been renewed and extended every thirty (30) days through Executive Order JML 26-103, which is in effect through Wednesday, November 18, 2026;

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, R.S. 29:724(D)(2) permits the Governor during a declared state of emergency the capacity to utilize all available resources of the state government and of each political subdivision of the state as reasonably necessary to cope with the disaster or emergency;

WHEREAS, R.S. 29:724(D)(3) authorizes the Governor during a declared state of emergency the capability to transfer the direction, personnel, or functions of state departments and agencies or units thereof for the purpose of performing or facilitating emergency services;

WHEREAS, R.S. 29:724(D)(4) gives the Governor during a declared state of emergency the ability to make provisions for the availability and use of temporary emergency housing;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State Penitentiary lacks adequate bed capacity to accommodate violent offenders who require the highest degree of security and will be transferred to its facilities;

WHEREAS, Camp J, within the Louisiana State Penitentiary, was designed to provide that maximum security, but Camp J has deteriorated into a condition that creates a significant threat of injury to individuals and property who enter or are in and around its premises;

WHEREAS, in the first seven months of 2017, dozens of weapons were found at Camp J due to security malfunctions;

WHEREAS, within just one year, approximately 85 corrections officers assigned to Camp J had resigned, retired, or were terminated due to the complex challenges presented there;

WHEREAS, locks for the cells in Camp J malfunctioned, allowing offenders to jam cell doors and circumvent security checks, which resulted in a decision to close Camp J in 2018;

WHEREAS, the security conditions of Camp J present a threat of injury and a threat to the lives of offenders housed or working within Camp J as well as employees, contractors, or members of the public who may be within Camp J at any time; and

WHEREAS, Camp J and the surrounding infrastructure requires facility improvements and maintenance to adequately hold any violent offenders and to protect the lives of any employees, contractors, or members of the public who may be within Camp J at any time.

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 that currently threatens 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 Camp J and surrounding infrastructure, within the Louisiana State Penitentiary.

Section 3: The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections are hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law that they deem appropriate in response to this declaration.

Section 4: 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, any other emergency amendments to existing contracts, or any public work necessary to respond to this emergency.

Section 5: 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 6: This Order is effective upon signature and shall continue in effect from Wednesday, November 18, 2026, to Friday, December 18, 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 18th day of November, 2026.

Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE