State of Louisiana

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION NUMBER 16 JBE 2021

AMENDING EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY PROVISIONS DUE TO COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, the Governor declared a public health emergency on in Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020 in response to the threat posed by COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, in Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020, the Governor declared that a statewide public health emergency existed in the State of Louisiana because of COVID-19 and expressly empowered the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and the Secretary of the Department of Health and/or the State Health Officer to take all actions authorized under state law;

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a state of public health emergency exists, La. R.S. 29:766(B) empowers the Governor to declare a state of public health emergency by executive order, or proclamation, or both;

WHEREAS, in Proclamation Number 174 JBE 2020, the Governor renewed the emergency declaration for the COVID-19 emergency; and in Proclamation Number 168 JBE 2020 ordered that Louisiana return to a modified Phase 2 of Resilient Louisiana;

WHEREAS, in Proclamation 209 JBE 2020, the Governor renewed the emergency declaration for the COVID-19 Emergency along with the modified mitigation measures of Phase 2 of Resilient Louisiana;

WHEREAS, in Proclamation 7 JBE 2021, the Governor renewed emergency provisions necessitated by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency;

WHEREAS, in cooperation with the Secretary of State, and to ensure the March 20, 2021 and April 24, 2021 elections are conducted safely, it is critical to vaccinate state and local election workers and election commissioners who will be interacting with members of the public during early voting and on election day;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend Proclamation 7 JBE 2021; and

WHEREAS, these measures are necessary to protect the health and safety of the people of Louisiana.

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

SECTION 1: Section 3 of Proclamation Number 7 JBE 2021 is hereby amended, adding subsection I, relating to an emergency suspension of the Louisiana Election Code's provisions regarding the time of selection of election commissioners. Section 3(I) of 7 JBE 2021 is as follows:

EMERGENCY SUSPENSIONS

I) ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

1) The provisions of La. R.S. 18:434(A)(1) and 18:434(A)(2) regarding timelines for the selection of election commissioners, and notice thereof, are hereby suspended for the limited purpose of facilitating the swift and safe vaccination of election commissioners. Parish boards of election supervisors

shall meet as early as 7:00 a.m. on February 5, 2021 to select the commissioners and alternate commissioners for each precinct.

2) In order to expedite the selection of commissioners, the provisions of R.S. 42:17.1(B) are suspended, solely for meetings of parish boards of election supervisions when meeting to select election commissioners for the March 20, 2021 and April 24, 2021 elections, beginning on February 5, 2021.

SECTION 2: 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 the effects of this event.

SECTION 3: Unless otherwise provided in this order, these provisions are effective from Thursday, February 4, 2021 to Wednesday, February 10, 2021, or as extended by any subsequent Proclamation, unless 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 4th day of February, 2021.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

SECRETARY OF STATE