



## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

### PROCLAMATION NUMBER 21 JBE 2023

---

#### *AMENDMENT TO STATE OF EMERGENCY – HURRICANE IDA*

---

- WHEREAS,** pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, a state of emergency was declared through Proclamation Number 165 JBE 2021;
- WHEREAS,** Hurricane Ida made landfall on the Louisiana coast as a major hurricane on Sunday, August 29, 2021, bringing devastating winds, widespread power-outages, and severe damage to Louisiana;
- WHEREAS,** the damage resulting from Hurricane Ida poses a threat to citizens and communities in the storm's path and has created conditions which place lives and property in the state in jeopardy;
- WHEREAS,** the State of Louisiana, recognizing the significant impact of Hurricane Ida, desires to minimize this impact on the residents and assist communities in their recovery;
- WHEREAS,** on September 24, 2021, Governor Edwards renewed the state of emergency caused by Hurricane Ida in Proclamation Number 178 JBE 2021;
- WHEREAS,** on August 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden approved an emergency declaration for the State of Louisiana, authorizing appropriate assistance under Title V of the Stafford Act, to be coordinated by the United States Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
- WHEREAS,** on August 29, President Biden approved a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Louisiana, authorizing individual and public assistance for all impacted parishes;
- WHEREAS,** La. 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; and
- WHEREAS,** it is necessary to supplement the measures provided in Proclamation Number 178 JBE 2021 to further 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: HIGHER EDUCATION**

- A) The following provisions shall apply to students who live in or attend school in parishes eligible to receive Direct Housing Assistance through

FEMA as a result of Hurricane Ida, including upon execution of this proclamation, but which may be updated as approved by FEMA, the parishes of Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Plaquemines, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Tangipahoa, and Terrebonne:

- 1) Relative to the initial eligibility requirements for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students Award for 2021 high school graduates residing in one of the parishes listed above, the final deadline to achieve a qualifying score on the ACT as set forth in La. R.S. 17:5062(C)(5)(b) shall be suspended when the ACT or SAT testing site for which the student was registered has closed due to the effects of Hurricane Ida. Students are encouraged to take the ACT no later than December 31, 2021.
- 2) Relative to the initial eligibility requirements for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students Award for 2022 high school graduates residing in one of the parishes listed above, the following requirements shall be suspended for students who were residing in or attending school in an affected parish on August 27, 2021:
  - a. The requirement that students must live in Louisiana and complete their last four (4) semesters at a Louisiana high school or that their parents must reside in Louisiana for the 24 months preceding high school graduation, as set forth in La. R.S. 17:5023.
  - b. The requirement that a student score a minimum of 23 on the ACT to receive the Opportunity Award if they graduate from an out of state high school, as set forth in La. R.S. 17:5029(B)(3).
- 3) Relative to the continuing eligibility requirements for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students Award, for students who, as of August 27, 2021, were residing in or attending school in one of the parishes listed above, the following requirements shall be suspended:
  - a. The steady academic progress requirements imposed by La. R.S. 17:5041 and 17:5042.
  - b. The minimum grade point average requirements imposed by La. R.S. 17:5041 and 17:5042.
  - c. The deadlines imposed by La. R.S. 17:5041 or La. R.S. 17:5042 requiring that a student whose award is suspended for failure to meet the grade point average requirements must bring their grade point average up to that required in the applicable statute within a specific time period.
  - d. The requirement that one semester of TOPS eligibility be reduced for each semester attended full time at an out of state institution, as set forth in La. R.S. 17:5043.

**B) Statewide, the following provisions shall apply:**

- 1) All Public Post-secondary institutions and proprietary schools within the State of Louisiana that are licensed by the Louisiana Board of Regents shall continue to be allowed to substitute in-person clinical and classroom instruction with online and lab



simulations for enrolled students for the duration of the declared emergency.

- 2) Relative to the continuing eligibility requirements for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students Award, for students who, as of August 27, 2021, were members of the Louisiana National Guard called to active duty to assist in the preparation for and response to Hurricane Ida, the following requirements shall be suspended:
  - a. The steady academic progress requirements imposed by La. R.S. 17:5041 and 17:5042.
  - b. The minimum grade point average requirements imposed by La. R.S. 17:5041 and 17:5042.
  - c. The deadlines imposed by La. R.S. 17:5041 or La. R.S. 17:5042 requiring that a student whose award is suspended for failure to meet the grade point average requirements must bring their grade point average up to that required in the applicable statute within a specific time period.
  - d. The requirement that one semester of TOPS eligibility be reduced for each semester attended full time at an out of state institution, as set forth in La. R.S. 17:5043.

**SECTION 2:** In addition to the suspension of the provisions of the Louisiana Procurement Code (La. R.S. 39:1551, *et seq.*) and Louisiana Public Bid Law (La. R.S. 38:2211, *et seq.*) and their corresponding rules and regulations, and pursuant to La. R.S. 29:724(D)(1), La. R.S. 32:1254 is 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 3:** Pursuant to La. R.S. 29:724(D)(1), strict compliance with the Property Control statutes (La. R.S. 39:321, *et seq.*) and their corresponding rules and regulations is hereby suspended with respect to the disposition of temporary movable housing, including recreational vehicles, procured partially or entirely with federal funds, and utilized by disaster survivors of Hurricane Ida. Any and all such dispositions shall be performed by the Division of Administration, Louisiana Property Assistance Agency.

**SECTION 4:** These provisions are effective from Wednesday, March 1, 2023 to Thursday, March 30, 2023, 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 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.

  
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

  
SECRETARY OF STATE