



**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 24-37**

***RENEWAL OF STATE OF EMERGENCY
POLICE OFFICER SHORTAGE***

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 deal with emergencies and disasters;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, Governor Jeff Landry declared a state of emergency in response to the imminent threat of emergency conditions that threaten the lives, property, and safety of the citizens of the State for the limited purpose of R.S. 14:139.1 (C)(1), in JML 24-22;

WHEREAS, our Nation and State are experiencing a police officer staffing crisis, and law enforcement agencies are losing officers faster than they can hire new ones;

WHEREAS, nationally, law enforcement agencies experienced 47% more resignations in 2022 than in 2019 and 20% more retirements in 2022 than in 2019;

WHEREAS, 78% of national law enforcement agencies reported having difficulty in recruiting qualified candidates, and 65% reported having too few candidates applying to be law enforcement officers;

WHEREAS, 50% of national law enforcement agencies reported having to change agency policies to increase the chances of gaining qualified applicants, and 25% reported having to reduce or eliminate certain agency services, units, or positions because of staffing difficulties;

WHEREAS, the national police officer shortage has affected Louisiana with departments experiencing record-low employment and an increase in police officer response times resulting in an increased threat to the lives, property, and safety of persons within the State of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association estimates that Louisiana sheriffs' offices were down approximately 1,800 deputies statewide as of July 2023;

WHEREAS, there currently exists a shortage of law enforcement officers in the State of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, the provisions of R.S. 14:139.1 do not apply when a public emergency necessitates an increase in the number of deputies;

NOW THEREFORE, I, JEFF LANDRY, 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:

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 continue to exist in the State of Louisiana as a result of the imminent threat of emergency conditions that threaten the lives, property, and safety of the citizens of the State for the limited purpose of R.S. 14:139.1 (C)(1).

SECTION 2:

This order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect from Friday, March 15, 2024, to Sunday, April 14, 2024, 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 15th day of March, 2024.



Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE**



Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE