Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE BILL NO. 527

BY REPRESENTATIVES SAM JONES, ARMES, ARNOLD, BALDONE, BARROW, BILLIOT, TIM BURNS, BURRELL, CARMODY, CARTER, DIXON, DOERGE, EDWARDS, GISCLAIR, GUILLORY, GUINN, HARDY, HILL, MICHAEL JACKSON, LABRUZZO, LAFONTA, MCVEA, MILLS, MONTOUCET, NOWLIN, RICHARD, GARY SMITH, JANE SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, THIERRY, AND WOOTON

CEMETERY/HISTORICAL: Provides for the creation of the La. Historic Cemetery Preservation Act

1	AN ACT
2	To enact Chapter 21-B of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be
3	comprised of R.S. 25:931 through 943, and R.S. 36:209(Q), relative to cemeteries
4	in the state of Louisiana; to establish the Louisiana Historic Cemetery Preservation
5	Program within the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, office of
6	cultural development, division of archaeology; to provide for program requirements
7	and exemptions; to provide for unlawful acts and penalties for violations; to
8	authorize the department to institute civil proceedings for violations of program
9	requirements; to create the Louisiana Historic Cemetery Trust Fund in the state
10	treasury and to provide for the use of the proceeds thereof; to create an advisory
11	board to oversee the fund; and to provide for related matters.
12	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
13	Section 1. Chapter 21-B of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
14	comprised of R.S. 25:931 through 943, is hereby enacted to read as follows:
15	CHAPTER 21-B. LOUISIANA HISTORIC CEMETERY
16	PRESERVATION ACT
17	<u>§931. Short title</u>
18	This Chapter shall be known as the "Louisiana Historic Cemetery
19	Preservation Act".

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CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

1	<u>§932. Legislative declaration of intent</u>
2	The legislature hereby finds the demolition, destruction, and damage of
3	historic cemeteries and isolated graves a disrespectful practice. The legislature
4	further finds that existing state laws do not provide for the adequate protection of
5	historic cemeteries that are not under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana Cemetery
6	Board, are not on state lands, and are not solely comprised of unmarked graves.
7	Cemeteries are considered by most cultures to be sacred spaces. In addition to being
8	resting places for our dead, many of Louisiana's cemeteries are repositories of
9	significant examples of art, architecture, and archaeology as well as containing the
10	history of their respective communities. The importance of cemeteries should not
11	be taken lightly, as these significant elements represent a substantial tourist attraction
12	for the state of Louisiana, and also present an endless source of data for historians,
13	taphologists, anthropologists, archaeologists, and genealogists that collectively lead
14	us to a better understanding of our own culture.
15	<u>§933. Definitions</u>
16	The following words and phrases when used in this Chapter shall have the
17	meanings given to them in this Section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:
18	(1) "Abandoned cemetery" shall mean any cemetery which is no longer being
19	used for interments, is not being maintained in good condition, and has fallen into
20	a state of disrepair, including tombs and headstones that have collapsed or been
21	destroyed, walls and fences that have fallen apart, and trees and bushes that have
22	grown amongst and within grave spaces.
23	(2) "Advisory board" shall mean the advisory board for the Louisiana
24	Historic Cemetery Trust Fund.
25	(3) "Artifact" shall mean any item of human manufacture or use that is
26	associated with a historic cemetery or isolated grave.
27	(4) "Board" shall mean the Louisiana Cemetery Board.

1	(5) "Damage" shall mean the intentional or inadvertent hurt, harm, or injury
2	to a component of a historic cemetery or to an isolated grave so as to lessen or
3	destroy its historic, cultural, or scientific value.
4	(6) "Department" shall mean the Department of Culture, Recreation and
5	Tourism.
6	(7) "Destruction" shall mean intentionally or inadvertently destroying
7	components of a historic cemetery by violent disintegration of its fabric so as to
8	reduce the components to ruin.
9	(8) "Division" shall mean the office of cultural development, division of
10	archaeology, within the department.
11	(9) "Fund" shall mean the Louisiana Historic Cemetery Trust Fund.
12	(10) "Grave space" shall mean a grave, crypt, vault, niche, tomb, lawn crypt,
13	or any other property used or intended to be used for the interment of human
14	remains. The term shall also include any marker or other means of commemoration
15	associated with the grave space.
16	(11) "Historic cemetery" shall mean any abandoned cemetery located in the
17	state that is more than fifty years old and is not subject to the laws, rules, and
18	regulations of the board or Chapter 10-A of Title 8 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes
19	<u>of 1950.</u>
20	(12) "Human skeletal remains" shall mean any part of the body of a deceased
21	human being in any stage of decomposition.
22	(13) "Isolated grave" shall mean any marked grave site that is not part of a
23	larger cemetery and is not subject to the laws, rules, and regulations of the board or
24	Chapter 10-A of Title 8 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950. The term shall
25	also include groupings of multiple graves that are not part of a larger cemetery.
26	(14) "Modification" shall mean the altering of the original substance of a
27	grave space.
28	(15) "Program" shall mean the Louisiana Historic Cemetery Preservation
29	Program.

1	(16) "Unmarked burial site" shall have the same meaning as provided in R.S.
2	<u>8:673.</u>
3	<u>§934. Louisiana Historic Cemetery Preservation Program</u>
4	A. The Louisiana Historic Cemetery Preservation Program is hereby
5	established within the department. The program shall be established and maintained
6	in the office of cultural development, division of archaeology. All budgeting,
7	purchasing, and management functions shall be administered by the department.
8	B. The department may employ and remove personnel as may be necessary
9	for the efficient administration of the program in accordance with applicable civil
10	service law, rules, and regulations, and department policies.
11	§935. Powers and duties of the department
12	The department shall have the following powers and duties with respect to
13	the program:
14	(1) To implement and enforce the provisions of this Chapter.
15	(2) To adopt such rules and regulations as are necessary to implement and
16	to enforce the provisions of this Chapter. All rules and regulations shall be adopted
17	in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq.
18	(3) To consult with all interested parties on occasions of planned or
19	inadvertent destruction, damage, or modification of grave spaces within historic
20	cemeteries or of isolated graves and to determine a proper course of action.
21	(4) To institute civil proceedings seeking injunctive or other relief to restrain
22	and to prevent violations of this Chapter or the laws or administrative rules
23	administered or enforced pursuant to this Chapter.
24	(5) To institute civil proceedings seeking restitution, payment of costs, or
25	other monetary relief necessary to prevent, restore, or repair damage to grave spaces
26	within historic cemeteries or to isolated graves.
27	(6) To issue permits for the disinterment and scientific study of human
28	skeletal remains and artifacts found in or near historic cemeteries or isolated graves.
29	The department may adopt rules and regulations to provide for the issuance of

emergency permits by the state archaeologist. Provisional permits may be used by
the department until such time as the program is staffed, and the department has
adopted rules and regulations governing permitting.
(7) To charge an amount not in excess of the amount authorized in R.S.
8:676(7) for each such permit. The monies collected from the issuance of permits,
subject to applicable provisions of law, shall be used as provided for funds from civil
damages as authorized by R.S. 25:938. However, the department shall not be
required to charge a fee for any permit issued pursuant to this Chapter.
<u>§936. Revocation or suspension of permits</u>
A. The department may revoke or suspend any permit issued under the
provisions of this Chapter upon a determination by the division that the holder of the
permit has violated the provisions of this Chapter or the rules and regulations
adopted pursuant to this Chapter, or has failed to meet the professional or
occupational standards determined by the division, or has failed to ensure that the
personnel employed by the holder of the permit meet the professional or
occupational standards determined by the division.
B. Permits may be revoked or suspended only by a ruling of the department
based on an adjudicatory hearing held in accordance with the provisions of the
Administrative Procedure Act.
C. The department shall notify each person whose permit has been revoked
or suspended, by certified mail, return receipt requested.
D. Each person whose permit has been revoked or suspended shall return the
permit to the department within fifteen days of the date on which the notice of the
revocation or suspension was received.
<u>§937. Unlawful acts</u>
A. It is unlawful for any person, entity, or group, to whom the board has not
issued a permit, to knowingly:
(1) Disturb a historic cemetery or an isolated grave.

1	(2) Allow any person, entity, or group access to a historic cemetery or an
2	isolated grave for the purpose of disturbing any such cemetery or grave.
3	(3) Provide funds to or for any person, entity, or group for the purpose of
4	disturbing any historic cemetery or isolated grave.
5	B. Each violation of this Section shall be punishable upon conviction of a
6	first offense by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars or imprisonment for not
7	more than one year, or both. Upon conviction of a second or subsequent offense
8	each violation shall be punishable by imprisonment for not more than two years or
9	a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars, or both. Each disturbance of a historic
10	cemetery or isolated grave constitutes a separate offense.
11	<u>§938. Civil remedies</u>
12	A. The department may institute civil proceedings seeking injunctive relief
13	to restrain and prevent violations of this Chapter or the laws or administrative rules
14	administered or enforced by the department.
15	B. The department may also institute civil proceedings seeking civil damages
16	from any person who knowingly violates any provision of R.S. 25:937. Civil
17	damages shall include any or all of the following:
18	(1) Forfeiture of any and all equipment used in disturbing the historic
19	cemetery or isolated grave.
20	(2) Payment of any and all costs incurred in cleaning and restoring the
21	affected portions of the historic cemetery or the isolated grave.
22	(3) Payment of any and all costs associated with protecting the historic
23	cemetery or isolated grave from further damage or in restoring the historic cemetery
24	or isolated grave to its original condition.
25	(4) Payment of any and all costs associated with recovery of data, and
26	analyzing, publishing, accessioning, and curating materials when the prohibited
27	activity is so extensive as to preclude the restoration of the historic cemetery or
28	isolated grave.

1	(5) Payment of any and all costs associated with the reinterment of the
2	human skeletal remains.
3	(6) Payment of any and all costs associated with determining and collecting
4	the civil damages, including but not limited to filing fees, attorney fees, court costs,
5	fees associated with discovery and the testimony of expert witnesses, and collection
6	<u>costs.</u>
7	C. The department may bring actions for injunctive relief or civil damages
8	in either the district court for the parish of East Baton Rouge or in the district court
9	where the historic cemetery or isolated grave is located.
10	D. The attorney general shall represent the department in all matters
11	pertaining to the administration or enforcement of this Chapter, or both, except in
12	those matters in which the board has employed special counsel. The board may
13	employ and shall fix the compensation of such special counsel with the concurrence
14	of the attorney general and in accordance with the laws and regulations regarding
15	employment of special counsel.
16	E. Civil damages, except for attorney fees, recovered by the department,
17	subject to applicable provisions of law, shall be used by the department to implement
18	and enforce the provisions of this Chapter and to fund activities of the division in
19	regard to restoration and protection of historic cemeteries and isolated graves, in
20	accordance with regulations adopted by the board and other applicable laws.
21	Attorney fees shall be paid to the Louisiana Department of Justice.
22	F. The provisions of this Chapter shall in no way limit the exercise of
23	concurrent jurisdiction by other state agencies in the prosecution of criminal or civil
24	lawsuits for violations of the provisions of this Chapter.
25	<u>§939. Discovery of historic cemetery or isolated grave</u>
26	A. Any person who has reason to believe he has discovered a historic
27	cemetery or an isolated grave shall notify the department through the division within
28	seventy-two hours of the discovery.

1	B. Any activity that may disturb the historic cemetery or isolated grave shall
2	immediately cease upon discovery. No activity which shall disturb the historic
3	cemetery or isolated grave shall resume until the department has issued a permit
4	governing the disposition of the historic cemetery or isolated grave. In no event shall
5	the department take longer than thirty days to decide on issuance of a permit without
6	the written agreement of all parties.
7	§940. Louisiana Historic Cemetery Trust Fund; creation
8	A. There is hereby created a special fund in the state treasury to be known
9	as the Louisiana Historic Cemetery Trust Fund. The source of the monies to be
10	deposited into the fund shall be grants, gifts, and donations received by the state for
11	the purposes of this Chapter, any other revenues, whether local, state, or federal, as
12	may be provided by law, and other monies which may be appropriated by the
13	legislature to the fund.
14	B. After compliance with the requirements of Article VII, Section 9(B) of
15	the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund,
16	an amount equal to that deposited into the state treasury from the sources provided
17	in Subsection A of this Section shall be deposited in and credited to the fund. The
18	advisory board shall administer the fund and all allocations made therefrom. The
19	monies in the fund shall be invested by the treasurer in the same manner as the state
20	general fund, and all unexpended and unencumbered monies remaining in the fund
21	at the end of each fiscal year shall remain in the fund.
22	C. The monies in the fund shall be allocated and disbursed by the advisory
23	board solely as provided for and in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.
24	<u>§941. Louisiana Historic Cemetery Trust Fund advisory board; creation;</u>
25	membership
26	A. There is hereby created the Louisiana Historic Cemetery Trust Fund
27	advisory board within the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, office of
28	cultural development, division of archaeology.

1	B.(1) The Louisiana Historic Cemetery Trust Fund advisory board shall be
2	comprised of nine members as follows:
3	(a) The lieutenant governor, or his designee.
4	(b) One member shall be appointed by the Louisiana Cemetery Board.
5	(c) Seven members shall be appointed by the lieutenant governor who are
6	persons knowledgeable in the areas of cemeteries, preservation, restoration,
7	architectural education, and Louisiana culture and the arts. One of the appointed
8	members shall be a staff member of the division.
9	(2) The appointing authorities shall make such appointments in such manner
10	as to ensure that the advisory board membership reflects as nearly as possible a cross
11	section of the race, gender, and economic status of the state's population.
12	C. At the initial meeting of the advisory board, the term of office of each
13	member appointed by the lieutenant governor shall be determined by lot. Of the
14	initial members, four members shall serve for a term of three years, and three
15	members shall serve for a term of two years. Thereafter, each member shall serve
16	for a term of four years or until his successor is appointed and qualified.
17	D.(1) The advisory board shall meet and organize immediately after
18	appointment of its members and shall elect a chairman and a treasurer from its
19	membership and other officers the board deems appropriate. The advisory board
20	shall adopt rules for the orderly transaction of business and shall keep a record of all
21	grant applications received, their disposition, and all grants awarded. A majority of
22	the appointed members of the advisory board shall constitute a quorum. Members
23	shall serve without compensation.
24	(2) The advisory board shall meet at least twice a year and at such other
25	times as determined by the chairman.
26	E. Failure of appointed members to attend three consecutive meetings shall
27	be cause for removal from the advisory board, and the position shall be deemed
28	vacant by notifying the appropriate appointing party.
29	F. The advisory board shall be domiciled in East Baton Rouge Parish.

1	G. The advisory board shall:
2	(1) Determine the need for an inventory of historic cemeteries and isolated
3	graves to be regulated by the department pursuant to this Chapter. The board shall
4	maintain any such inventory.
5	(2) Adopt such rules, regulations, standards, and grant application
6	procedures necessary to implement the funding provisions of this Chapter, in
7	accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act.
8	(3) Establish priorities and criteria to be considered for grants.
9	H. Any cemetery association, cemetery corporation, or nonprofit organization
10	that obtains a grant shall advise the director of the division of the progress of the
11	project and verify and provide documentation of any and all expenditures of grant
12	money as deemed necessary and appropriate by the director of the division. The
13	director shall monitor, evaluate, and review the development and quality of projects
14	funded through the fund and report findings to the advisory board.
15	I. The director of the division may call a meeting of the advisory board at
16	any time if there is a need for consideration and awarding of an immediate grant.
17	<u>§942. Expenditures</u>
18	Monies in the fund shall be awarded as determined by the advisory board for
19	the sole purpose of the preservation, protection, and repair of historic cemeteries,
20	tombs, and grave plots in the state of Louisiana. No grant shall be authorized to be
21	made to replace funds that would be available through an applicable perpetual care
22	<u>fund.</u>
23	<u>§943. Exclusions</u>
24	The provisions of this Chapter shall not apply to the following:
25	(1) A cemetery operated under the authority and regulation of the board.
26	(2) An unmarked burial site that is covered under the authority and
27	regulation of the division or Chapter 10-A of Title 8 of the Louisiana Revised
28	Statutes of 1950.
29	(3) Normal cleaning of grave spaces and grounds maintenance.

1	(4) Grave spaces within abandoned cemeteries that are less than fifty years
2	<u>old.</u>
3	Section 2. R.S. 36:209(Q) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
4	§209. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department
5	of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
6	* * *
7	Q. The advisory board to the Louisiana Historic Cemetery Trust Fund (R.S.
8	25:940 through 943) shall be placed within the Department of Culture, Recreation
9	and Tourism as provided for agencies transferred in accordance with R.S. 36:802.
10	* * *
11	Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
12	signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
13	by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
14	vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
15	effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Sam Jones

HB No. 527

Abstract: Establishes the La. Cemeteries Historic Preservation Program within the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, office of cultural development. Creates the La. Historic Cemetery Trust Fund and provides for the use of the proceeds thereof.

<u>Proposed law</u> establishes the La. Cemeteries Historic Preservation Program within the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, office of cultural development. Requires all budgeting, purchasing, and management functions to be administered by the department.

<u>Proposed law</u> authorizes the department to employ and remove personnel as may be necessary for the efficient administration of the program in accordance with applicable civil service law, rules, and regulations, and department policies.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that the department shall have the following powers and duties with respect to the program:

(1) To implement and enforce the provisions of <u>proposed law</u>.

- (2) To adopt such rules and regulations as are necessary to implement and to enforce the provisions of <u>proposed law</u>. All rules and regulations shall be adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950, et seq.
- (3) To consult with all interested parties on occasions of planned or inadvertent destruction, damage, or modification of grave spaces within historic cemeteries or of isolated graves and to determine a proper course of action.
- (4) To institute civil proceedings seeking injunctive or other relief to restrain and to prevent violations of proposed law or the laws or administrative rules administered or enforced pursuant to proposed law.
- (5) To institute civil proceedings seeking restitution, payment of costs, or other monetary relief necessary to prevent, restore, or repair damage to grave spaces within historic cemeteries or to isolated graves.
- (6) To issue permits for the disinterment and scientific study of human skeletal remains and artifacts found in or near historic cemeteries or isolated graves. Authorizes the department to adopt rules and regulations to provide for the issuance of emergency permits by the state archaeologist. Authorizes the use of provisional permits in certain circumstances.
- (7) To charge an amount not in excess of the amount authorized by <u>present law</u> (the La. Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (R.S. 8:672 et seq.) which authorizes a fee of up to \$100) for each permit. Provides that the monies collected from the issuance of permits, subject to applicable provisions of law shall be used as provided for funds from civil damages in <u>proposed law</u>.

<u>Proposed law</u> authorizes the department to revoke or suspend any permit issued under the provisions of <u>proposed law</u> upon a determination by the division that the holder of the permit has violated the provisions of <u>proposed law</u> or the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to <u>proposed law</u>, or has failed to meet the professional or occupational standards determined by the division, or has failed to ensure that the personnel employed by the holder of the permit meet the professional or occupational standards determined by the division. Requires the department to give notice of any such suspension or revocation.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that it is unlawful for any person, entity, or group, to whom the board has not issued a permit, to knowingly disturb a historic cemetery or an isolated grave, allow any person, entity, or group access to a historic cemetery or an isolated grave for the purpose of disturbing any such cemetery or grave, or provide funds to or for any person, entity, or group for the purpose of disturbing any historic cemetery or isolated grave.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that each violation of <u>proposed law</u> shall be punishable upon conviction of a first offense by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both. Provides that upon conviction of a second or subsequent offense each violation shall be punishable by imprisonment for not more than two years or a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both. Provides that each disturbance of a historic cemetery or isolated grave constitutes a separate offense.

<u>Proposed law</u> authorizes the department to institute civil proceedings seeking injunctive relief to restrain and prevent violations of <u>proposed law</u> or the laws or administrative rules administered or enforced by the department. Additionally authorizes the department to institute civil proceedings seeking civil damages from any person who knowingly violates any provision of <u>proposed law</u>.

<u>Proposed law</u> authorizes the department to bring actions for injunctive relief or civil damages in either the district court for East Baton Rouge Parish or in the district court where the historic cemetery or isolated grave is located. Provides that the attorney general shall

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represent the department in all matters pertaining to the administration or enforcement of proposed law, except in those matters in which the board has employed special counsel.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that civil damages, except for attorney fees, recovered by the department, subject to applicable provisions of law, shall be used by the department to implement and enforce the provisions of <u>proposed law</u>. Provides that civil damages shall also be used to fund activities of the division in regard to restoration and protection of historic cemeteries and isolated graves, in accordance with regulations adopted by the board and other applicable laws. Provides that attorney fees shall be paid to the La. Dept. of Justice. Provides that the provisions of <u>proposed law</u> shall in no way limit the exercise of concurrent jurisdiction by other state agencies in the prosecution of criminal or civil lawsuits for violations of the provisions of <u>proposed law</u>.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that any person who has reason to believe he has discovered a historic cemetery or an isolated grave shall notify the department through the division within 72 hours of the discovery. Provides that any activity that may disturb the historic cemetery or isolated grave shall immediately cease on discovery.

<u>Proposed law</u> creates and provides for the La. Historic Cemetery Trust Fund. Provides that the source of the monies to be deposited into the fund shall be grants, gifts, and donations received by the state for the purposes of <u>proposed law</u>, any other revenues, whether local, state, or federal, as may be provided by law, and other monies which may be appropriated by the legislature to the fund.

<u>Proposed law</u> creates an advisory board for the La. Historic Cemetery Trust Fund within the department. Provides that the board shall be comprised of nine members as follows:

- (1) The lieutenant governor, or his designee.
- (2) One member appointed by the La. Cemetery Board.
- (3) Seven members appointed by the lieutenant governor who are persons knowledgeable in the areas of cemeteries, preservation, restoration, architectural education, and La. culture and the arts. Requires that one of the appointed members be a staff member of the division of archaeology.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires the appointing authorities of the advisory board to make appointments in such a manner as to ensure the board's membership reflects as nearly as possible a cross section of the race, gender, and economic status of the state's population.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that members appointed by the lieutenant governor shall serve fouryear staggered terms. Provides that the board shall be domiciled in East Baton Rouge Parish. Requires the advisory board to determine the need for an inventory of historic cemeteries and isolated graves to be regulated by the department and requires the board to maintain the inventory. Further requires the board to adopt such rules, regulations, standards, and grant application procedures necessary to implement the funding provisions of <u>proposed law</u>, in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act and establish priorities and criteria to be considered for grants.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires any cemetery association, cemetery corporation, or nonprofit organization that obtains a grant to advise the director of the division of the progress of the project and verify and provide documentation of any and all expenditures of grant money as deemed necessary and appropriate by the director. Requires the director to monitor, evaluate, and review the development and quality of projects funded through the fund and report findings to the advisory board. Requires the director of the division to call a meeting of the advisory board at any time if there is a need for consideration and awarding of an immediate grant.

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<u>Proposed law</u> requires that monies in the fund be awarded as determined by the advisory board for the sole purpose of the preservation, protection, and repair of historic cemeteries, tombs, and grave plots in the state. Provides that no grant shall be authorized to be made to replace funds that would be available through an applicable perpetual care fund.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of proposed law shall not apply to the following:

- (1) A cemetery operated under the authority and regulation of the board.
- (2) An unmarked burial site that is covered under the authority and regulation of the division or present law (Chapter 10-A of Title 8 of the L.R.S. of 1950).
- (3) Normal cleaning of grave spaces and grounds maintenance.
- (4) Grave spaces within abandoned cemeteries that are less than 50 years old.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that the advisory board to the La. Historic Cemetery Trust Fund shall be placed within the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism as provided for agencies transferred in accordance with R.S. 36:802.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 25:931-943 and R.S. 36:209(Q))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

- Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and</u> <u>Cultural Affairs</u> to the <u>original</u> bill.
- 1. Added to proposed law the definition of "abandoned cemetery".
- 2. Amended the definition of "historic cemetery" to include only abandoned cemeteries.
- 3. Removed provisions of <u>proposed law</u> that require that the program be staffed with no less than one and no more than two employees whose salary shall be funded out of the La. Historic Cemetery Trust Fund. Additionally removes provisions that provide that the salaries of department employees may be paid out of the state general fund until sufficient monies are available in the trust fund. Further removes provisions that provide for the disbursement of trust fund monies to pay staff salaries.
- 4. Added statement that the department shall not be required to charge a fee for any permit issued pursuant to <u>proposed law</u>.
- 5. Removed provisions of <u>proposed law</u> that provide that the director of the La. Cemetery Board shall serve as a member of the La. Historic Cemetery Trust Fund advisory board. Instead provides that the La. Cemetery Board shall appoint a member to the advisory board.
- 6. Added requirement that the lieutenant governor appoint, as one of his seven appointments to the La. Historic Cemetery Trust Fund advisory board, a staff member from the division of archaeology.
- 7. Added requirement that the La. Historic Cemetery Trust Fund advisory board determine the need for an inventory of historic cemeteries and isolated graves to be regulated by the department and maintain the inventory.

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

- 1. Removed provisions of <u>proposed law</u> that authorized the department to charge a fee not to exceed \$200 for each permit issued by the department. Instead authorized the department to charge an amount not in excess of the amount authorized by <u>present law</u> (the La. Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (R.S. 8:672 et seq.) for each permit issued.
- 2. Added a requirement that the appointing authorities of the La. Historic Cemetery Trust Fund advisory board make appointments to ensure the board's membership reflects the race, gender, and economic status of the state's population.