

RESOLUTION

2006-R-29

A Resolution To Oppose Proposed Legislation By The Louisiana Sheriff's Association For Revisions To The Existing State Laws For The Establishing And Duties Of The Parish Office Of Homeland Security From The Parish To The Sheriff.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 628 has been introduced for consideration by the Louisiana Legislature during the 2006 Regular Session, which Bill would pass the power of the Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) from Parish governments to Sheriffs; and

WHEREAS, said legislation has been proposed due to the fact that some Parish governments OEP Offices are not organized and struggled or failed to respond properly and quickly to recent emergencies declared in Louisiana in 2005 as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which can seriously jeopardize lives, property, etc.; and

WHEREAS, present State law authorizes the Parish Presidents of each Parish to establish an office of homeland security and emergency preparedness, which has worked effectively in some Parishes, including in Vermilion Parish where the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Management is an organized entity and effectively coordinates appropriate responses to emergencies, such as hurricane evacuations and hazardous materials spills; and

WHEREAS, some Parish governments have voluntarily handed over responsibilities of the Office of Emergency Preparedness to their respective Sheriffs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vermilion Parish Police Jury does hereby express its strong opposition to proposed Senate Bill No. 628, as introduced by Senator Robert Barham for consideration by the Louisiana Legislature during the 2006 Regular Session, which Bill would revise existing State statutes for the establishment and duties of the Parish Offices of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to the Sheriffs of each respective Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that continuation of the existing State statutes for this office as currently established allows that any Parish government which feels it is not capable or does not want to operate OEP Office can turn said duties over to the Sheriff of the respective parishes for his/her operations and direction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of the Resolution shall be forwarded to the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, the Vermilion Parish Legislative Delegation and all Parish governments requesting their support and assistance with this request.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Vermilion Parish Police Jury.

I, Clay P. Menard, Secretary-Treasurer, of the Vermilion Parish Police Jury, do hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution adopted by the Vermilion Parish Police Jury at their meeting held on May 1, 2006, at which a quorum was present and acting.

Clay P. Menard
Secretary-Treasurer
Vermilion Parish Police Jury

