



**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION NUMBER 16 JBE 2018**

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***STATE OF EMERGENCY AND STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
EMERGENCY – TROPICAL STORM HARVEY***

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- WHEREAS,** Proclamation Number 104 JBE 2017, issued on August 24, 2017, declared a state of emergency for the State of Louisiana due to Tropical Storm Harvey, which continues to threaten the safety and security of the citizens of Louisiana;
- WHEREAS,** Proclamation Number 105 JBE 2017, issued August 31, 2017, declared a state of public health emergency because Tropical Storm Harvey made landfall in southwest Louisiana and traveled through central and north Louisiana, dropping unprecedented rainfall amounts that caused widespread flooding, as well as impacting the coastal parishes of Louisiana with storm surge, that necessitated emergency shelters, including medical special needs shelters;
- WHEREAS,** during this emergency, some areas of the state received tremendous amounts of rainfall, causing rivers to rise rapidly and significant localized flooding;
- WHEREAS,** this flooding is straining medical infrastructure throughout the state;
- WHEREAS,** such flooding is a public health threat to citizens and communities across Louisiana and creates conditions which place property in the State of Louisiana in jeopardy and poses a high probability of a large number of serious or long-term disabilities in the affected population;
- WHEREAS,** in homes and businesses that are flooded or otherwise affected by the floodwaters, mold can begin to grow within forty-eight hours from the time flooding first occurs leading to both immediate and potentially long-term health issues, and there is a need to remove mold before a home or business can be inhabited;
- WHEREAS,** standing water left after flood waters recede will leave an ideal breeding ground for mosquitos and mosquito-borne diseases, such as West Nile, Zika, and dengue fever, which pose a danger to the State's population, particularly the elderly, pregnant women, and immune-compromised;
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, and the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act, La. R.S. 29:760 *et seq.*, confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to deal with emergencies and disasters, including those caused by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or

manmade causes, in order to ensure that preparations of this State will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Louisiana, and to ensure the State has the ability to respond, rapidly and effectively, to potential or actual public health emergencies;

**WHEREAS,** when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, La. R.S. 29:724(B)(1) and La. R.S. 29:766(B) empower the Governor to declare a state of emergency and a state of public health emergency by executive order or proclamation, or both; and

**WHEREAS,** it is necessary to renew 104 JBE 2017 and 105 JBE 2017 to extend the state of emergency and a state of public health emergency due to the continuation of emergency conditions.

**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:** Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721 *et seq.*, and the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act, La. R.S. 29:760 *et seq.*, a state of emergency and a state of public health emergency are declared to continue to exist statewide as a result of this event, the effects of which continue to threaten the lives and property of the citizens of the State.

**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 severe weather event.

**SECTION 3:** This order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect from Sunday, January 21, 2018 until Monday, February 19, 2018, unless terminated sooner.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018.



  
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY  
OF STATE**

  
SECRETARY OF STATE