



NEWS RELEASE

LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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LOUISIANA HOUSE SPEAKER TAYLOR F. BARRAS ELECTED CHAIR OF THE SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

St. Louis, Missouri – July 25, 2018 – **House Speaker Taylor F. Barras** (New Iberia) was unanimously elected **chair of the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC)** by delegates to the group’s 72nd annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. As chair, Speaker Barras will preside over the Conference and its Executive Committee through the coming year. He also will assist in shaping the program for the 73rd Annual Meeting of the SLC, to take place in New Orleans, July 13-17, 2019.

Speaker Barras and Louisiana **Senate President John A. Alario Jr.** (Westwego) invited the SLC to host the 2019 meeting in the Crescent City on behalf of the Louisiana Legislature. “Louisiana is known worldwide for its hospitality and spirit, and Senate President Alario and I look forward to welcoming lawmakers from across the region to New Orleans,” said Speaker Barras. “The 2019 SLC meeting is an opportunity to showcase our state and to confer with other state legislators on policies and best practices to benefit our constituents.” Louisiana last hosted the annual meeting in 2002.

Speaker Barras served as chair elect of the SLC from August 2017 until his election as chair on July 24. **North Carolina House Speaker Tim Moore** (Kings Mountain) was elected to serve as chair elect, and **Missouri Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard** (Joplin), who served as the 2017-2018 chair, is now the immediate past chair.

The SLC convened for its 72nd Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, July 21-25, as part of its mission to foster intergovernmental cooperation among its 15 member states. The meeting brought together more than 1,300 legislators, legislative staff and guests from across the South.

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