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**State of Louisiana**  
*Department of Public Safety and Corrections*  
*Public Safety Services*

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TO: Jay Dardenne, Commissioner of Administration  
Task Force on Structural Changes in Budget and Tax Policy  
Louisiana House of Representatives  
Louisiana State Senate

FROM: Major Jason Starnes 

SUBJECT: HCR 25 of the 2016 Regular Legislative Session

Below are initiatives the department will undertake as outlined in the House Concurrent Resolution:

OFFICE OF STATE POLICE

- LSP consolidated the communications (dispatchers) offices in the Baton Rouge (Troop A/HQ), Covington (Troop L), and New Orleans (Troop B) areas. LSP Headquarters (Baton Rouge) now handles radio traffic for all troopers and officers that work for LSP, State Fire Marshal's Office, Governor's Office of Homeland Security, and Department of Public Safety Police in those three areas covering 19 parishes.
- LSP plans to perform the same communications consolidation for the remainder of the state, with Lafayette and/or Alexandria as possible sites. Consolidation reduces duplication of effort, salary costs, and operating costs.
- LSP identified 14 trooper positions within the Gaming Section that could be replaced with non-trooper investigator positions. The troopers in these positions were moved from Gaming to Patrol. This reduced the cost of salary and benefits associated with those Gaming positions and added troopers to the Patrol ranks to increase the number of troopers patrolling the state.

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- LSP automated the Concealed Handgun Permit (CHP) process which has greatly streamlined the permitting process of thousands of applicants annually by allowing them to complete much of the process online.
- Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) is being researched and implemented. Funding was recently approved for this new fiscal year. CAD will allow dispatchers and troopers to communicate seamlessly, transmit critical information in real-time for calls for service, and integrate mapping.
- Electronic citations are also on the horizon for LSP. Funding was recently approved for this new fiscal year. E-citations will greatly reduce the amount of time a trooper and a citizen have to spend on the side of the road for a violation. It allows for electronic transfer of citation information to courts, Office of Motor Vehicles, and the Troops, allowing for much quicker processing of citations. It will also allow for better statistical capture of violations, locations, and demographics of violators.
- A Record Management System (RMS) was also approved for purchase by LSP this fiscal year. This system will become the backbone for the thousands of reports, citations, and other documents generated within LSP. This will create a "one-stop" location for retrieving a requested document, rather than the many locations currently in use today. A RMS system also has the capability to "talk" to the CAD and e-citation systems mentioned above for compiling statistics and other information.

#### LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

- The Gaming Control Board was created in 1996 to consolidate video poker and casino regulation into one board. The Board's mission is to regulate all gaming activities under its jurisdiction in a manner which instills public confidence and trust insuring that gaming and related activities are conducted honestly and free from criminal and corruptive elements; to insure the integrity of individual gaming activities by the regulation of persons, practices, associations and activities within the gaming industry.
- The Board is comprised of 9 members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate. One Board member is designated by the governor to serve as Chairman. The support staff consists of two unclassified employees and one classified employee. Court reporters and the LGCB hearing officer are also paid through our budget.
- The FY 2016-2017 budget is \$903,678. The majority of budgeted funds are expended on salaries for staff and board members.

- The Board operates independently of oversight from any state agency but was “placed” in the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Public Safety Services (PSS) so that back office functions could be provided without additional costs to the state. All human resources, technology and procurement activities are carried out through PSS Office of Management and Finance resulting in considerable savings and efficiencies for the Board.

#### LOUISIANA HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION

- The Louisiana Highways Safety Commission (LHSC) operates under the provisions of the Highway Safety Act of 1966 (23 USC 402) Title 23 – Highways, and the current Congressional transportation authorization that establishes behavioral traffic safety grant funding for the States. Additionally, the State of Louisiana has enacted LRS 48: 1351-1357 to provide guidance for administration, commission terms, meets, expenses, Executive Director, Executive Committee, powers and duties.
- The LHSC serves as the State Highway Safety Office, which every State is required to have to be eligible for federal traffic safety grant funds.
- The LHSC staff is composed of an Executive Director appointed by the Governor who serves as the Governor’s Representative for Highway Safety (GR) and 14 classified civil service positions. A State is required to have a named Governor’s Representative to coordinate behavioral traffic safety as a condition to receiving federal grant funds. The staff salaries of the LHSC are 100% federally funded, with the exception of the Executive Director, who is 50% funded by both federal and state self-generated funds.
- The LHSC operates under all state guidelines for civil service and procurement, DPS policy and procedure and in compliance with all federal and State statutes, regulations and policy concerning federal transportation grant programs.
- The majority of the federal funds received by the LHSC are used to provide subgrants for a wide variety of agencies and organizations to implement traffic safety improvement programs.
- The LHSC is currently exploring options for an electronic grants management system similar to those in use by many other State Highway Safety Offices.
- There is no duplication of services in Louisiana. Only the LHSC services as the SHSO and receives federal funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for behavioral traffic safety.
- The LHSC is 99% federally funded and the small amount of state self-generated funds we receive are required to receive the federal funds.

## LOUISIANA OIL SPILL COORDINATOR'S OFFICE (LOSCO)

- The Louisiana Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act of 1991 created the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO) within the Office of the Governor to provide a centralized authority for all matters related to oil spill response and prevention. The Office was relocated to the Department of Public Safety as of July 1, 2009. The Act designated LOSCO as the lead state agency for the prevention of, response to, and restoration of resources from unauthorized discharges of oil in the State of Louisiana. LOSCO assists the legislature in fulfilling its duties to protect, conserve, and replenish the natural resources of this state in accordance with Article IX, Section 1 of the Constitution of Louisiana and also supports and complements the federal Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-380). Funding of the Office is provided through a one quarter cent or one half cent fee on crude oil received by a refinery for storage or processing.
- LOSCO's mission is to ensure both effective coordination between State agencies and Federal agencies as well as representation of the state's interests in all matters related to spill response and prevention, to minimize unauthorized discharges of oil, to provide compensation to the public for damages to the state's natural resources, and to assist the public through education, service, and public outreach
- LOSCO provides unique services within state government and routinely works towards improving efficiencies.