

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 303

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 49:261, relative to the apprehension of fugitive offenders; to create the
3 Fugitive Apprehension Unit; to provide for the activities of the fugitive apprehension
4 unit; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 49:261 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §261. Department of Justice Fugitive Apprehension Unit

8 A. The attorney general shall maintain a statewide Fugitive Apprehension
9 Unit within the investigation division of the Department of Justice. The Fugitive
10 Apprehension Unit shall be comprised of special agents who shall be P.O.S.T.-
11 certified peace officers commissioned by the attorney general, intelligence analysts,
12 and support personnel. The unit shall be responsible for apprehending fugitives and
13 shall perform the following activities:

14 (1) Coordinate with and assist local, state, and federal law enforcement
15 agencies including but not limited to the Department of Public Safety and
16 Corrections, the office of state police, the office of probation and parole, sheriffs
17 departments, police departments, the United States Marshals Service, the United
18 States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and other federal law enforcement
19 agencies, to apprehend fugitives.

20 (2) Provide assistance to law enforcement agencies that are actively pursuing
21 fugitives and individuals who have violated the terms and conditions of court-
22 ordered electronic monitoring programs.

1 (3) Execute arrest warrants and make warrantless arrests as prescribed by
 2 law.

3 (4) Give priority to proactively targeting fugitives wanted for violent felony
 4 offenses, including murder, rape, armed robbery, and other heinous crimes.

5 (5) Establish or participate in fugitive task forces with other state or federal
 6 law enforcement agencies to address the need for increased resources in the
 7 apprehension of fugitives.

8 (6) Identify, pursue, and arrest any person who shall harbor, conceal, or aid
 9 a fugitive, knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe that the offender is a
 10 fugitive, and with the intent that the fugitive may avoid or escape from arrest, trial,
 11 conviction, or punishment.

12 B. The attorney general shall appoint and commission special agents who
 13 shall be P.O.S.T.-certified peace officers vested with all the powers conferred by law
 14 upon peace officers of this state.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____