



John Bel Edwards
Governor

STATE OF LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA



Stanley M. Dameron
Commissioner
ED-Dep-6-21

September 13, 2021

Emergency Declaration by the Commissioner of Financial Institutions

Governor Edwards' Proclamation No. 173 JBE 2021 dated September 12, 2021, declared a State of Emergency for **Tropical Storm Nicholas** through **October 11, 2021**, unless terminated sooner. Pursuant to my authority under LSA-RS 6:121(A) of the Louisiana Banking Law, and, as a result of the serious threat and concerns presented by **Tropical Storm Nicholas** in multiple parishes in the State of Louisiana, which may threaten the lives and property of the residents and businesses located in such areas, I hereby deem these conditions to create an emergency relative to financial institutions in general in the affected areas, and as to their employees, and their customers, and therefore issue the following Emergency Declaration:

Temporary Branch Office Closures, Relocations, and Reduced Operations

As a result of the existing state of emergency, I hereby grant state-chartered financial institutions authority to temporarily close an existing branch office(s), establish a temporary location(s), and reduce operations, products, and services provided by state-chartered financial institutions pursuant to my authority under LSA-RS 6:121(A).

Temporary Branch Office Closures

All OFI requirements relating to the temporary closure of a branch office are hereby expressly waived for state-chartered financial institutions whose operations have been interrupted by **Tropical Storm Nicholas**. The state-chartered financial institution should post a notice for public view at the physical location in the event that a temporary branch office closure is necessary. The state-chartered financial institution shall provide the following information to OFI in writing via email to ofila@ofi.la.gov as soon as practicable, and in no case more than 5 calendar days after a decision is made to temporarily close a branch office:

1. Name and physical address of the closed branch
2. Name and contact information of a representative of the state-chartered financial institution that is knowledgeable of the closing
3. Such other information as the Commissioner may request

Temporary Branch Office Relocations

The following waiver applies only to the temporary relocation of a branch office by a state-chartered financial institution as a result of **Tropical Storm Nicholas**:

In lieu of any other OFI requirements, all of which are hereby expressly waived for the duration of this emergency declaration, including any further declarations, with respect to temporarily relocating a branch office, state-chartered financial institutions shall provide the following

information to the OFI in writing via email to ofila@ofi.la.gov as soon as practicable before, and in no case more than 3 calendar days after the temporary relocation:

1. Name and physical address of the closed branch,
2. Name, physical address, telephone number, and other contact information of the relocated or new temporary branch,
3. Name, telephone number, and other contact information of any other depository institution operating at the same location, if any,
4. Name and contact information of a representative of the state-chartered financial institution that is knowledgeable of the relocated or temporary branch office, and
5. Such other information as the Commissioner may require.

After receipt of such information, a temporary certificate of authority to operate the temporary branch office will be issued. It is understood that the opening of a temporary branch office will only take place in order to replace the closing of an existing branch office, on a one-to-one basis. The addition of any new branch office is subject to normal OFI requirements for opening a branch office for state-chartered financial institutions.

The authority to refuse to issue, or to revoke a temporary Certificate of Authority to open any branch office, and the authority to require full compliance with applicable branching laws and regulations is expressly reserved by the Commissioner.

Reduced Operations

A state-chartered financial institution may choose to limit hours, to reduce functions, or even to close certain days of the week, as a result of **Tropical Storm Nicholas**. These are consistent with the Certificate of Authority granted to a state-chartered financial institution for its branch/main office. You should post any such changes in operations for public view at any affected location.

Permanent certificates of authority--post emergency declaration

An application for issuance of a permanent certificate of authority to operate a relocated branch in accordance with OFI requirements may be filed at any time before or after the expiration of this declaration, or of the expiration of any subsequent and continuing declaration of this State of Emergency. Any authority to operate a temporary branch shall expire 30 calendar days after expiration of this declaration, unless an application for a permanent certificate of authority in accordance with statutory and regulatory requirements is filed with the OFI before expiration of this thirty day period.

Financial institutions are encouraged to file for permanent certificates of authority as soon as practicable after opening a temporary relocated branch or new temporary branch pursuant to the authority described in this continuance of the Emergency Declaration.

This Emergency Declaration shall remain in effect as long as Emergency Provisions related to **Tropical Storm Nicholas** are renewed and extended, as declared by Governor Edwards of the State of Louisiana, or rescinded or replaced by me.

Declared and issued this 13th day of September 2021.



Stanley M. Dameron
Commissioner
Office of Financial Institutions