

SENATOR'S NEWS RELEASE

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SEN. MORRELL TAKES ON NEW LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES IN LOUISIANA STATE SENATE

NAMED TO KEY COMMITTEES OVERSEEING INSURANCE AND STORM RECOVERY ISSUES

District 3 State Senator Jean-Paul "JP" Morrell (D-New Orleans) is taking on new leadership responsibilities in the Louisiana Senate. Sen. Morrell, who came to the Senate last month after winning a special election for the District 3 seat, will serve on the Senate Insurance and the Senate Local and Municipal Affairs Committees and hold the post of vice-chairman of the Senate Retirement Committee. Senate President Joel Chaisson recently appointed Sen. Morrell to the Senate committees which deal with important insurance, storm-recovery and state retirement issues.

"I am particularly pleased that I will be able to continue my work as member of the Senate Insurance Committee to fight for lower property insurance rates," Sen. Morrell said.

Sen. Morrell, who previously served as a member of the House Insurance Committee before moving to the Senate, has a history of leading efforts to reform state property insurance laws to ease the burden of high premium costs on property owners. Several years ago, he successfully pushed for a change in state law to remove the requirement that property owners forced to seek insurance from Citizens Property Insurance, the state insurer of last resort, automatically pay premiums 10% higher than others.

As vice-chairman of the Senate Retirement Committee, the New Orleans democrat will oversee legislation relating to the stability of the various state retirement systems and how to best address the long-term debt of the systems.

"I am honored as a new member of the Senate to be name vice-chairman of the retirement committee," Sen. Morrell said. "I am certainly grateful to the Senate President who has seen fit to give me these leadership responsibilities so early on."

Sen. Morrell comes to the Senate from the House of Representatives where he served from 2006 to his election to the Senate last month. Senate District 3 includes parts of the New Orleans lakefront, Gentilly, Faubourg Marigny, Bywater, Algiers point, Gretna, Harvey and Marrero.

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