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### **Ex-legislators asked to devise recommendations**

Gov.-elect Bobby Jindal tapped two former legislators Thursday to develop recommendations for a special session on ethics reform.

Jindal said Baton Rouge advertising company leader Sean Reilly and Shreveport businesswoman Virginia Kilpatrick Shehee will be responsible for adding more detail to the 31-point ethics reform policy plan that he released during the campaign.

Their work will be used to draft an agenda for a special session that Jindal plans to call shortly after his Jan. 14 inauguration.

“We’re not looking for a report to sit on a shelf,” he said.

Jindal, a 36-year-old Republican, already intends to push to:

- \* Require public officials to give up their pensions if they break the law.
- \* Force legislators to disclose their income, assets and debts in financial ranges.
- \* Prohibit legislators from serving as consultants to lobbying firms.

The ethics reform team is one of seven transition councils that Jindal is organizing to advise him on economic growth, education, health and social services, hurricane recovery and emergency preparedness, government and fiscal reform, and crime and public safety. Two committees will study veterans affairs and wildlife and fisheries.

He is meeting with Gov. Kathleen Blanco today to discuss the “Road Home” program, which is expected to run out of money in December to help homeowners rebuild, repair or relocate their homes in the hurricane-affected areas.

Jindal also named consultant Forest Benedict as human resources director for his transition team. Benedict will handle résumés for jobs within the administration but will not be doing the hiring, Jindal said.

So far, Jindal has hired a chief of staff, deputy chief of staff and communications director.

He said every position in state government should be considered vacant, including the heads of the 12 state agencies directly under the governor’s control. Jindal also has to hire a commissioner of administration to oversee the state operating budget.

The transition councils will make hiring recommendations to Jindal, including who should serve in his cabinet. He said it will be two to three weeks before he makes announcements on senior advisers and administration appointments.

Announcements about chairpersons for the councils will be more immediate.

Both Reilly and Shehee were involved in Blueprint Louisiana, a group of business, community and civic leaders that pushed statewide policy changes during the 2007 election cycle. The group's platform included a push for financial disclosure by legislators and transparency in state funding of local projects — two issues found in Jindal's ethics package.

Blueprint failed to get the backing of most of the leading gubernatorial candidates, including Jindal. Jindal's campaign simply said Jindal preferred to push his own policy plan.

Reilly, 46, said he plans to draw from Blueprint, Jindal's campaign policy plan and LA Ethics 1, a coalition of business and public interest groups, in making recommendations for the ethics special session.

Shehee, 84, said she and Reilly plan to meet and talk by telephone.

"We're going to get it done. We've got to get it done," she said.

Reilly is the president of Lamar Advertising's outdoor division.

He is active in political circles, mostly Democratic. From 1988 to 1996, Reilly served in the House as a Democrat. Gov. Kathleen Blanco, a Democrat, appointed him to the Louisiana Recovery Authority's board of directors after hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Shehee was the first woman elected to the state Senate. She ran as a Democrat although her voter registration now lists her as a Republican. Shehee is a Shreveport resident who runs her family businesses, Kilpatrick Life Insurance Co. and Kilpatrick's Rose-Neath Funeral Homes.