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## Angelle takes legislative liaison job

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- Advocate Capitol News Bureau
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State Natural Resources Secretary Scott Angelle is keeping his old job while taking on a new role.

Angelle, a Democrat and Blanco administration holdover, will be the Jindal administration's legislative liaison during the upcoming regular session.

"I was humbled by the confidence they would place in me," he said Wednesday.

The position has been vacant since Tommy Williams resigned last summer.

Williams stepped down in the middle of the controversy over legislators more than doubling their pay. Gov. Bobby Jindal eventually vetoed the pay raise after wavering on the issue.

Angelle will supplement the hands-on role that the governor's chief of staff, Timmy Teepell, and other top aides already play in dealing with legislators.

Teepell said Angelle was a natural choice.

"Scott has a lot of horsepower," Teepell said. "He's smart, talented and a tremendously hard worker."

Angelle is not receiving additional compensation for his new duties, Teepell said. As natural resources secretary, he is paid \$129,210 a year.

A legislative liaison works with lawmakers to promote the governor's proposals. One of the big issues on the horizon is a \$1.3 billion shortfall for the state spending year that begins July 1, 2009.

Angelle said he already is participating in discussions on the Jindal administration's proposal to restructure how the poor receive health care.

As the son of a former legislator, Angelle said he grew up in a political environment. He was 3 when his father was elected to the House.

Angelle was a member of the St. Martin Parish Police Jury and parish president before former Gov. Kathleen Blanco named him natural resources secretary. Jindal reappointed him.

When the next regular session convenes in April, Angelle said he will meet early in the morning with his agency staff before heading to the State Capitol.

“I’ll sleep less and work more,” he said.

Angelle said he is an early riser. He commutes from Breaux Bridge. He said he is used to multitasking because he was one of nine children.

Wearing multiple hats is not unprecedented for a legislative liaison.

Blanco’s legislative liaison, Hunt Downer, held three jobs — the governor’s lobbyist, secretary of Veterans Affairs and Louisiana National Guard official.

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