
DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

HB 642

2021 Regular Session

Schexnayder

Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House

FUNDS/FUNDING-GRANTS: Provides for the disbursement of monies received from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Report adopts Senate amendments to:

1. Create the Capital Outlay Relief Fund and Southwest Louisiana Hurricane Recovery Fund.
2. Transfer Louisiana Rescue Plan Funds monies to the Capital Outlay Relief Fund, Southwest Louisiana Hurricane Recovery Fund, Construction Subfund of the Transportation Trust Fund, Major Events Fund, and H.E.R.O. Fund.
3. Create the Water Sector Commission to oversee the Water Sector Program
4. Combine the Louisiana Loggers Relief Fund and Louisiana Save Our Screens Fund into the Louisiana Main Street Recovery Rescue Plan Fund.
5. Reduce funding for the Louisiana Port Relief Program from \$55 million to \$50 million.
6. Change the source of funding for the Legislative Capitol Technology Enhancement Fund.
7. Decrease the amount of funding for the Small Business and Nonprofit Assistance Program from \$50 million to \$10 million.

Report rejects Senate amendments which would have:

1. Created the Louisiana Tourism Revival Fund and Louisiana Tourism Revival Program and transferred monies to the fund.
2. Required any monies remaining in the Louisiana Rescue Plan Fund at the end of the fiscal year be administered by DOTD to fund drainage, erosion, and slope stability improvements on the Southern University Baton Rouge campus.

3. Removed small businesses from the Small Business and Nonprofit Assistance Program.
4. Made technical changes.

Report amends the bill to:

1. Create the Louisiana Tourism Revival Fund and Louisiana Tourism Revival Program and transfer monies to the fund.
2. Allocate an amount of up to \$5 million for reimbursement for port security measures for port authorities.
3. Allow monies in the Louisiana Rescue Plan Fund to be used to provide funding for infrastructure projects administered by DOTD, subject to approval of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget through a BA-7.
4. Require the division of administration to include any administrative costs in the plan submitted to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.
5. Make technical changes.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Rescue Plan Fund and directs the treasurer to deposit any federal monies allocated to Louisiana pursuant to the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 into the fund.

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund and directs the treasurer to deposit any federal monies allocated to La. pursuant to the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Proposed law authorizes the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) to appropriate monies from any of the funds created in proposed law and to transfer monies between funds created in proposed law by approving a BA-7.

Proposed law creates the following funds and directs the treasurer to deposit the following amounts from the Louisiana Rescue Plan Fund into the funds:

- (1) Louisiana Water Sector Fund - \$300 million
- (2) Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities (GUMBO) Fund - \$90 million
- (3) Louisiana Main Street Recovery Rescue Plan Fund - \$14.5 million
 - Louisiana Loggers Relief Fund - \$10 million

- Louisiana Save Our Screens Fund - \$4.5 million
- (5) Louisiana Small Business and Nonprofit Assistance Fund - \$10 million
- (6) Louisiana Port Relief Fund - \$50 million
- (7) Louisiana Tourism Revival Fund - \$77.5 million
 - Louisiana Tourism Revival Program - \$60 million
 - Dept. of Culture, Recreation, & Tourism - \$17.5 million
- (8) Southwest Louisiana Hurricane Recovery Fund - \$30 million
- (9) Capital Outlay Relief Fund - \$35 million

Proposed law directs the treasurer to deposit the following amounts from the Louisiana Rescue Plan Fund into the following existing funds:

- (1) \$15 million to the Legislative Capitol Technology Enhancement Fund
- (2) \$563 million to the Construction Subfund of the Transportation Trust Fund
- (3) \$10 million to the Major Events Fund
- (4) \$5 million to the H.E.R.O. Fund

Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities (GUMBO) Fund

Proposed law creates the GUMBO Fund to provide grants to help fund broadband access in rural and disadvantaged areas pursuant to the provisions of the Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities program. Proposed law directs the treasurer to deposit \$90 million from the Louisiana Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund into the fund.

Louisiana Water Sector Program

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Water Sector Program to provide grants to community water and sewer systems and projects necessitated by storm water. Requires the division of administration, the office of facility planning and control, and the office of community development to administer the program.

Proposed law establishes the Water Sector Commission as a ten member legislative commission that will review and approve applications submitted pursuant to the program and make recommendations to JLCB for approval of funding.

Proposed law establishes a working panel comprised of the office of public health, Dept. of Environmental Quality, office of community development, and the office of facility planning and

control to review and rate applications from local governments and water and sewer systems and make recommendations to the commission for funding projects.

Proposed law requires projects included in the bill that originated as HB 2 of the 2021 to receive priority for funding and exempts those entities from submitting an additional application to be considered for a grant.

Louisiana Loggers Relief Program

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Loggers Relief Program to provide grants to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses who suffered revenue loss due to COVID-19.

Proposed law establishes the program as a component of the Louisiana Main Street Recovery Program and outlines criteria for program eligibility.

Proposed law limits the grant amount to \$25,000 per eligible business.

Louisiana Save Our Screens Program

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Save Our Screens Program to provide grants to movie theaters in La. who were forced to close or reduce capacity due to COVID-19.

Proposed law establishes the program as a component of the Louisiana Main Street Recovery Program and outlines criteria for program eligibility.

Proposed law limits the grant amount to \$10,000 per movie screen located in La.

Louisiana Small Business and Nonprofit Assistance Program

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Small Business and Nonprofit Assistance Program to provide grants to small business to provide workforce development activities and to nonprofit organizations in La to assist individuals impacted by COVID-19.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Revenue to administer the program and outlines criteria for program eligibility.

Proposed law limits the grant amount to \$25,000 per eligible nonprofits.

Louisiana Port Relief Program

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Port Relief Program to provide grants to La. port authorities that suffered revenue loss or incurred expenses due to COVID-19 or port security measures.

Proposed law outlines criteria for program eligibility. Requires the division of administration to administer the program.

Proposed law requires up to \$5 million of monies for the Port Relief Program to be used for reimbursement for maritime and port security measures.

Louisiana Tourism Revival Program

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Tourism Revival Program to provide grants to local and regional tourist commissions for marketing and promoting Louisiana as a tourism destination for in-state and out-of-state travel activity.

Proposed law requires the division to administer the program and outlines criteria for program eligibility.

Proposed law requires JLCB approval of a plan for administration of the program prior to any grants be awarded.

Proposed law authorizes the division of administration to utilize up to \$250,000 collectively from the Louisiana Port Relief Fund and Louisiana Tourism Revival Fund for administrative expenses associated with the respective programs.

The creation of the GUMBO Fund and transfer of monies into the fund is effective if and when House Bill No. 648 of this 2021 R.S. is enacted and becomes effective.

The remaining provisions of the bill are effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 39:100.44.1, 100.44.2, and 100.51-100.59.2)