

**ACT No. 331**

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 629

BY REPRESENTATIVE JONES

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Chapter 49 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised  
3 of R.S. 33:9711, relative to municipalities; to create a municipal consortium  
4 comprised of certain municipalities and Indian tribes that choose to participate; to  
5 provide relative to the purpose, governance, and powers and duties of the  
6 consortium; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Chapter 49 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,  
9 comprised of R.S. 33:9711, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 CHAPTER 49. MUNICIPAL CONSORTIUM

11 §9711. Municipal consortium

12 A. Findings and purpose. (1) The legislature finds that the citizens of the  
13 state can benefit from smaller municipalities cooperating with one another to  
14 highlight and leverage the creative assets of the municipalities to attract and retain  
15 residents and businesses and to bring visitors to experience the unique nature of their  
16 areas.

17 (2) The legislature recognizes that many smaller municipalities confront  
18 structural changes and residential uprooting and that there is a need for revitalization  
19 through creative initiatives that animate places and spark economic development.  
20 This goal can be better achieved by allowing smaller municipalities to participate in  
21 a consortium so that they may use their collective resources to promote their local  
22 assets which will help them to achieve gains in jobs, income, diversity, and livability.

1           B. Creation. There is hereby created a municipal consortium, referred to in  
2           this Section as the "consortium", comprised of municipalities with a population of  
3           not more than thirty-five thousand persons according to the latest federal decennial  
4           census that chooses to participate and any state or federally recognized Indian tribe  
5           that chooses to participate. Any such municipality or Indian tribe shall indicate its  
6           intention to join the consortium through adoption of a resolution. The purpose of the  
7           consortium is to promote goods produced by business enterprises owned and  
8           operated by residents of the participating municipality or members of the Indian tribe  
9           and to otherwise retain and develop locally owned businesses, and the consortium  
10          may take actions necessary to achieve such purpose.

11           C. Governance. The consortium shall be governed by a board of directors,  
12          referred to in this Section as the "board". The membership of the board shall be  
13          comprised of one member appointed by the governing authority of each participating  
14          municipality or tribe. The board shall adopt bylaws to govern its meetings and  
15          activities.

16           D. Powers and duties. The consortium, acting through its board, shall have  
17          the following powers and duties:

18           (1) To develop a centralized market place, website, or other mechanism for  
19          facilitating the sale of locally produced goods to customers.

20           (2) To expend funds received pursuant to Subsection E of this Section.

21           (3) To enter contracts and agreements with persons or entities, public or  
22          private, necessary for its purposes.

23           (4) To apply for and receive grant funding that would contribute to the  
24          purpose of the consortium.

25           (5) To adopt bylaws to govern its affairs and activities.

26           E. Funding. The consortium may solicit and accept voluntary contributions  
27          and grants to further the purposes of the consortium.

28           F. Cooperation with federal and state agencies. The consortium, acting  
29          through its board, may cooperate with the government of the United States and may  
30          contribute financially to the expense of projects and initiatives as are or may be

1           authorized or adopted by the United States. The consortium may also cooperate with  
 2           all agencies, departments, and political subdivisions of the state of Louisiana in all  
 3           undertakings, the purpose of which shall be the furtherance of the objects and  
 4           purposes for which the consortium is created.

5                   G. The consortium shall have no authority to tax or levy fees or assessments  
 6           against any municipality that is a member of the consortium.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_