

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY REPRESENTATIVE MAGEE

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION: Urges and requests the Division of Administration, office of community development, to disburse federal funds for project applications in round one of the Watershed Projects Grant Program to aid economic recovery from COVID-19 pandemic

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request that the Louisiana Division of Administration, office of community
3 development, immediately disburse federal funds for project applications in round
4 one of the Watershed Projects Grant Program to aid in Louisiana's economic
5 recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

6 WHEREAS, following the 2016 floods, several state agencies worked to develop the
7 Louisiana Watershed Initiative to study and implement policy changes and construct
8 infrastructure projects that will protect against future flood related devastation; and

9 WHEREAS, in April 2018, Governor Edwards announced the federal government's
10 allocation of \$1.21 billion in Community Development Block Grant funding for mitigation
11 for the Louisiana Watershed Initiative; and

12 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Watershed Initiative provides for three local and regional
13 funding rounds totaling over \$570 million within its Watershed Projects Grant Program; and

14 WHEREAS, the office of community development accepted applications in 2019 for
15 round one totaling \$100 million; and

16 WHEREAS, the applications submitted to the office of community development in
17 2019 are for infrastructure projects that will help improve Louisiana's resiliency against
18 major rain events which are certain to continue; and

1 WHEREAS, the preconstruction and construction phases of infrastructure projects
2 are a time-tested, proven way to sustain and grow the state's economy; and

3 WHEREAS, Louisiana is currently facing an unprecedented economic crisis due to
4 the COVID-19 pandemic that has resulted in skyrocketing unemployment; and

5 WHEREAS, government agencies and businesses throughout the state are facing
6 tremendous financial deficits that can only be resolved by putting the people of Louisiana
7 back to work; and

8 WHEREAS, Louisiana's most prominent industries, such as tourism and oil and gas,
9 have been decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic and face a very uncertain future; and

10 WHEREAS, the office of community development has \$100 million in round one
11 available to immediately begin putting Louisiana citizens to work on infrastructure projects
12 that improve the resilience of the state; and

13 WHEREAS, government agencies have the ability to act expeditiously in crisis and,
14 to the extent any state law exists that serves as an impediment to immediate disbursement
15 by the office of community development for projects in round one, the House of
16 Representatives is committed to revising such laws as necessary.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
18 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request that the Louisiana Division of
19 Administration, office of community development, immediately disburse federal funds for
20 project applications in round one of the Watershed Projects Grant Program to aid in
21 Louisiana's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana House of Representatives urges
23 and requests the office of community development to identify any provisions of state law
24 that may serve as an impediment to the immediate disbursement of round one funding and
25 notify the Louisiana House of Representatives of such impeding provisions of law within
26 seven days of the passage of this resolution.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted
28 to the Louisiana Division of Administration, office of community development.

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)]

HR 30 Original

2020 Regular Session

Magee

Urges and requests that the La. Division of Administration, office of community development, immediately disburse federal funds for project applications in round one of the Watershed Projects Grant Program to aid in Louisiana's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.