

2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: Directs the Louisiana Workforce Commission and the Board of Regents to study and submit a report to the legislature relative to funding and programs for workforce development

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To authorize and direct the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Commission to
3 cooperatively study and report on resources available and innovative ways to
4 coordinate and rapidly deploy opportunities for retraining and developing new skills
5 for Louisiana workers who are unemployed because of the COVID-19 crisis.

6 WHEREAS, the state's response to the contagion of COVID-19 required a large scale
7 disruption of the state's economy as many businesses were closed in order to protect the
8 public health and to prevent a spike in demand for healthcare services that would have
9 overwhelmed the capacity of the healthcare system to provide services; and

10 WHEREAS, the closing of so many businesses resulted in hundreds of thousands of
11 Louisianans losing their jobs; and

12 WHEREAS, as the threat of COVID-19 subsides, some of Louisiana's labor force
13 will return to the fields that they left, bringing their training and experience with them, but
14 many will not be so lucky; it is already clear that the pandemic experience is changing social
15 arrangements which will in turn result in fundamental changes to the Louisiana economy;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Louisiana needs to respond to this situation quickly and on a large scale;
18 every possible avenue for retraining and developing new skills for workers who have been
19 dislocated by the economic disruption needs to be explored and harnessed in the immediate
20 future for the sake of the individual workers and the health of the state's overall economy.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
2 authorize and direct the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Commission to
3 cooperatively study and report on resources available and innovative ways to coordinate and
4 rapidly deploy opportunities for retraining and developing new skills for Louisiana workers
5 who are unemployed because of the COVID-19 crisis, all as further provided by this
6 Resolution.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study and report shall include the following:

8 (1) Identification and evaluation of all funds and programs that might be applied to
9 this challenge including: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds, TOPS-Tech
10 awards, needs-based financial assistance available to students, Supplemental Nutrition
11 Assistance Program-Employment and Training funds, Strategies to Empower People funds
12 and programs, Rapid Response Workforce Training funds and programs, Louisiana
13 Economic Development Fast Start training programs, the Incumbent Worker Training
14 Program, and all relevant tax credits available to employers and workers.

15 (2) Ideas for better structural and programmatic coordination among state agencies
16 to facilitate connecting each dislocated worker with a package of training options that is
17 applicable to his or her situation and identification of policy and legal barriers to such
18 coordination.

19 (3) Strategies for quickly moving unemployed workers into training for available
20 jobs, including one-stop resources that unemployed workers could use to explore their
21 options and receive seamlessly integrated services, including both internet and regional
22 office-based resources.

23 (4) National best practices and new models for management, financing, and delivery
24 of workforce training programs.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents and the Louisiana
26 Workforce Commission shall hold at least three public hearings to solicit ideas and
27 suggestions from interested parties including employers, agency personnel, educators and
28 trainers, economic experts, economic development organizations, trade associations, labor
29 organizations, nonprofit organizations, and Louisiana workers who are looking for
30 opportunities.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall be submitted to the Legislature
2 of Louisiana in accordance with R.S. 24:772 by September 30, 2020.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
4 secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, the commissioner of higher education,
5 and the chairman of the Board of Regents.

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)]

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