

2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council to study and report on resources available and innovative ways to coordinate and rapidly deploy opportunities for retraining and developing new skills for Louisiana workers who are unemployed because of the COVID-19 crisis.

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council to study and report on resources available and innovative ways to coordinate and rapidly deploy opportunities for retraining and developing new skills for Louisiana workers who are unemployed because of the COVID-19 crisis, all as further provided by this Resolution.

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

(1) Identification and evaluation of all funds and programs that might be applied to this challenge including: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds, TOPS-Tech awards, needs-based financial assistance available to students, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Employment and Training funds, Strategies to Empower People funds and programs, Rapid Response Workforce Training funds and programs, Louisiana Economic Development Fast Start training programs, the Incumbent Worker Training Program, and all relevant tax credits available to employers and workers; every effort shall be made to present information on such programs in aggregate statewide data and data by region with demographic indicators for the most recent year data is available, including but not limited to the amount of public expenditures, the physical locations that serve the public, the number of individuals served, the number of individuals who complete the programs, the types of training and credentials received, and employment in the field after training.

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council shall solicit ideas, data, information, and suggestions from relevant state and local government agencies, postsecondary education institutions that manage such programs, and interested parties including employers, agency personnel, educators and trainers, economic experts, economic development organizations, trade associations, labor organizations, nonprofit organizations, and Louisiana workers who are looking for opportunities.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, the chairman of the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council, the commissioner of higher education, the chairman of the Board of Regents, the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services, the secretary of Louisiana Economic Development, and the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Revenue.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE