

1 XII of the Social Security Act in order to pay weekly unemployment compensation benefits;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the funds from the Title XII loan can only be used to pay unemployment
4 benefit claims and are not a means or mechanism to replenish the unemployment trust fund;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, pursuant to R.S. 23:1536(E)(1), the replenishment of the unemployment
7 trust fund is made possible with the implementation of a solvency tax, which is a tax of up
8 to thirty percent on businesses; and

9 WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency, it is recognized
10 that businesses have suffered a great economic impact; however, unemployed and partially
11 employed workers have also suffered a great financial impact as a result of the COVID-19
12 health emergency; and

13 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana pays the third lowest average weekly benefit
14 amounts of any state in the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency, unemployed and
16 partially employed workers have struggled to cover household expenses, such as rent or
17 mortgage, groceries, and utilities, and attempt to survive on a maximum weekly benefit
18 amount of two hundred forty-seven dollars; and

19 WHEREAS, an increase in the maximum weekly benefit amount in the state's
20 unemployment compensation program will not only greatly assist unemployed and partially
21 employed Louisiana workers, but will have a significant impact on local economies; and

22 WHEREAS, R.S. 23:1474 provides that the unemployment trust fund offers a
23 decrease in the tax rate for employers, a ten percent discount for employers, and an increase
24 in the unemployment compensation weekly benefit amounts when the trust fund has reached
25 a specific balance range; and

26 WHEREAS, this statutory provision and others should be examined to determine
27 practical and feasible ways to replenish the unemployment trust fund and increase the
28 unemployment compensation maximum weekly benefit amounts for claimants.

29 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
30 establish the Unemployment Compensation and Trust Fund Task Force to study and make

1 recommendations for replenishing the unemployment trust fund and increasing the
2 unemployment compensation weekly benefit amount and to submit a written report of its
3 findings and recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana not later than thirty days prior
4 to the convening of the 2021 Regular Session.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the task force shall be as
6 follows:

- 7 (1) The secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission or his designee.
- 8 (2) One representative from the Louisiana AFL-CIO.
- 9 (4) One representative from the Louisiana Budget Project.
- 10 (5) One representative from the Workplace Justice Project.
- 11 (6) One representative from the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.
- 12 (7) One representative from the National Federation of Independent Business.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Workforce Commission shall
14 provide staff support as needed by the task force.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall convene its first meeting by
16 December 1, 2020, and shall meet as frequently as it deems necessary for the timely
17 performance of its duties.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall study and make
19 recommendations to matters that include but are not limited to the following:

- 20 (1) Mechanisms or measures to replenish the unemployment trust fund.
- 21 (2) Mechanisms or measures to generate at least one billion five hundred million
22 dollars for the unemployment trust fund.
- 23 (3) The advantages and disadvantages of increasing the weekly benefit amount.
- 24 (4) Mechanisms or measures to increase the weekly benefit amount.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary
26 of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, the president of the Louisiana Association of
27 Business and Industry, the Louisiana state director of the National Federation of Independent
28 Business, the president of the Louisiana AFL-CIO, the executive director of the Louisiana
29 Budget Project, and the director of the Workplace Justice Project.

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)]

HCR 36 Original

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

Lyons

Creates the Unemployment Compensation and Trust Fund Task Force to study and report its findings and recommendations for replenishing the unemployment trust fund and increasing the unemployment compensation weekly benefit amount to the Legislature of La. not later than 30 days prior to the convening of the 2021 R.S.