# 2021 Regular Session

# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 122

# BY REPRESENTATIVE LYONS

# UNEMPLOYMENT COMP: Continues the Unemployment Compensation and Trust Fund Task Force

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION			
2	To continue the Unemployment Compensation and Trust Fund Task Force that was created			
3	pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution No. 36 of the 2020 Second Extraordinary			
4	Session of the Legislature of Louisiana to study and make recommendations for			
5	replenishing the unemployment trust fund and increasing the unemployment			
6	compensation weekly benefit amount and to submit a written report of its findings			
7	and recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana not later than thirty days prior			
8	to the convening of the 2022 Regular Session.			
9	WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana was struck by the COVID-19 pandemic in March			
10	2020, which caused some businesses to reduce their employees' hours or to temporarily, and			
11	in some cases, permanently, shut down and lay off employees; and			
12	WHEREAS, the state is returning to some semblance of normalcy and as a result,			
13	businesses are also opening to full capacity and employees are returning back to work;			
14	however, there is still an unprecedented number of individuals who are filing for			
15	unemployment compensation benefits; and			
16	WHEREAS, at the beginning of March 2020, the state's unemployment trust fund,			
17	which was solvent and prosperous, had a balance of approximately one billion five hundred			
18	million dollars; and			
19	WHEREAS, as of May 2021, the state's unemployment trust fund, which was greatly			
20	depleted as a result of the unprecedented payment of unemployment compensation benefits,			
21	now has a balance of approximately fifty-one million dollars; and			

#### HLS 21RS-3814

1 WHEREAS, as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it is recognized that 2 businesses have suffered a great economic impact; however, unemployed and partially 3 employed workers have also suffered a great financial impact; and 4 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana pays the third lowest average weekly benefit 5 amounts of any state in the United States; and 6 WHEREAS, as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, unemployed and 7 partially employed workers have struggled to cover household expenses, such as rent or 8 mortgage, groceries, and utilities, and attempt to survive on a maximum weekly benefit 9 amount of two hundred forty-seven dollars; and 10 WHEREAS, an increase in the maximum weekly benefit amount in the state's 11 unemployment compensation program will not only greatly assist unemployed and partially 12 employed Louisiana workers, but will have a significant impact on local economies; and 13 WHEREAS, Louisiana Law, R.S. 23:1474, provides that the unemployment trust 14 fund offers a decrease in the tax rate for employers, a ten percent discount for employers, 15 and an increase in the unemployment compensation weekly benefit amounts when the trust 16 fund has reached a specific balance range; and 17 WHEREAS, this statutory provision and others should be examined to determine 18 practical and feasible ways to replenish the unemployment trust fund and increase the 19 unemployment compensation maximum weekly benefit amounts for claimants. 20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 21 continue the Unemployment Compensation and Trust Fund Task Force to study and make 22 recommendations for replenishing the unemployment trust fund and increasing the 23 unemployment compensation weekly benefit amount and to submit a written report of its 24 findings and recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana not later than thirty days prior 25 to the convening of the 2022 Regular Session. 26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the task force shall continue

to be as provided for in House Concurrent Resolution No. 36 of the 2020 Second
Extraordinary Session of the Legislature of Louisiana as follows:

29

(1) The president of the Senate or his designee.

30

HLS 21RS-3814

1	(3)	The secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission or his designee.			
2	(4)	One representative from the Louisiana AFL-CIO.			
3	(5)	One representative from the Louisiana Budget Project.			
4	(6)	One representative from the Workplace Justice Project.			
5	(7)	One representative from the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.			
6	(8)	One representative from the National Federation of Independent Business.			
7	(9)	One representative from Greater New Orleans, Inc.			
8	(10)	One representative from Louisiana Women Lead.			
9	(11)	One representative from the Louisiana Community and Technical College			
10		System.			
11	(12)	The Revenue Estimating Conference faculty member with revenue			
12		forecasting expertise.			
13	(13)	One representative from North Louisiana Economic Partnership.			
14	BE IT	FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Workforce Commission shall			
15	continue to provide staff support as needed by the task force.				
16	BE IT	FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall continue to meet as			
17	frequently as it deems necessary for the timely performance of its duties.				
18	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall continue to study and make				
19	recommendat	ions 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	(5)	Mechanisms or measures for assisting the unemployed to re-enter the			
26		workforce, including training needed to develop new skills required for			
27		available jobs.			
28	BE IT	FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary			
29	of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, the president of the Louisiana Association of				
30	Business and Industry, the Louisiana state director of the National Federation of Independent				

- 1 Business, the president of the Louisiana AFL-CIO, the executive director of the Louisiana
- 2 Budget Project, the director of the Workplace Justice Project, the president of Greater New
- 3 Orleans, Inc., the executive director of Louisiana Women Lead, the president of the
- 4 Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and the faculty member serving on
- 5 the Revenue Estimating Conference.

# 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 122 Original	2021 Regular Session	Lyons
e	e	<b>,</b>

Continues 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 2022 R.S.