

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY SENATOR CATHEY AND REPRESENTATIVES BOURRIAQUE, BUTLER, DESHOTEL, MCFARLAND, MCMAHEN, ROMERO, THOMPSON, WHEAT AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development and the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to meet and function as a joint committee to study and make recommendations regarding the appropriate level of support to further the missions, goals, and priorities of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine, and the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

WHEREAS, the agriculture industry is the number one industry in the state of Louisiana, generating an economic impact in excess of twenty-nine billion dollars annually to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center and the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center is to conduct agricultural research, extension, and teaching programs that advance Louisiana's agriculture industry and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center provides research and educational programs for agricultural commodities, agricultural technology, nutrition, and rural development, and develops Louisiana's youth and families through the 4-H program; and

WHEREAS, goals of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center include increasing faculty development and competitiveness in obtaining external funding, expanding efforts with commodity groups to meet clientele needs, enhancing partnerships with private industry to develop early stage technology, expanding the multi-parish agent

model to meet needs, establishing a medicinal plants research and education initiative, increasing public awareness on the youth development opportunities offered by Louisiana 4-H, increasing teaching, research, and outreach in digital agricultural technologies, and increasing community health and nutrition programs; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine serves as the only veterinary school in the state and through its missions of teaching, healing, discovering, and protecting provides for the mutually dependent health of animals, people, and the environment by teaching the next generation of veterinarians and biomedical scientists to attain the highest levels of intellectual and medical expertise, cultural competency, ethical standards, and personal development, which aid in healing Louisiana's animal patients, and in so doing improving the economics and well-being of the people who rely on them; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine also provides an important public health benefit to the state by monitoring, detecting, communicating, preventing, and treating emerging and potential threats and outbreaks of various animal diseases, while discovering new therapies, diagnostics, and mechanisms that lead to cures of animal and human diseases ensuring the livestock and companion animal population and citizens of our state remain healthy and safe; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine include increasing class size to serve the growing demand for veterinarians throughout the state, expanding faculty to enhance teaching and research efforts specifically in the biomedical areas of preventing and curing animal and human disease, engaging new and creative avenues of external research funding, and expanding cancer research efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center conducts agricultural related training for producers to meet their business management needs, provides a robust cooperative extension network for small, disadvantaged, beginning, veteran, women, and underserved farmers and stakeholders, provides opportunities for youth to develop leadership skills through the annual livestock show, hosts multiple educational opportunities including the annual Louisiana Small Farmer Conference, and conducts

certification and training programs to enhance the capacity of Louisiana's small farms and businesses; and

WHEREAS, goals of the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center include increasing resources to meet agricultural land-grant mandates, developing new partnerships and strengthening existing collaborations with private industry to increase opportunities for growth, enhancing research capabilities in the hemp and medical marijuana programs, and making facility improvements to better serve students and statewide extension programs; and

WHEREAS, it should be a priority of the Legislature of Louisiana to understand the current programs and resources of the two AgCenters and the veterinary school and address any needs, issues, or obstacles to growth that the institutions might face.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development and the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to meet and function as a joint committee to study and make recommendations regarding the appropriate level of support to further the missions, goals, and priorities of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine, and the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairmen of the Senate and House committees on agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, and rural development shall serve as co-chairmen of the joint committee at its initial meeting to be held no later than September 30, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint committee shall solicit information, data, and input from the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine, and the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint committee shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2023 Regular Session.

**SCR NO. 8**

**ENROLLED**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine, and the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES