

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

BY REPRESENTATIVES ORGERON, EDMONSTON, FIRMENT, GADBERRY,  
MOORE, SCHAMERHORN, SELDERS, AND WRIGHT

WATERWAYS/NAVIGATION: Expresses affirmation and resolute support for fostering  
a strong domestic maritime industry for the nation's economic prosperity

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express affirmation and resolute support for fostering a strong domestic maritime  
3 industry for the nation's security and economic prosperity.

4 WHEREAS, Louisiana's 2,800 miles of navigable waterways and pivotal role as the  
5 gateway of the Mississippi River system make it central to the nation's maritime  
6 transportation system and shipbuilding industry; and

7 WHEREAS, the global pandemic, hostilities in Europe, and overall geopolitical  
8 instability have demonstrated the critical importance of maintaining resilient domestic  
9 industries and transportation services to the citizens and workforce of Louisiana; and

10 WHEREAS, the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, known as the Jones Act and codified  
11 in Title 46 of the United States Code, requires that vessels carrying cargo between locations  
12 in the United States be owned by American companies, crewed by American mariners, and  
13 built in American shipyards; and

14 WHEREAS, America's ability to project and deploy forces globally, and supply and  
15 maintain military installations domestically, depends on the civilian fleet of Jones Act  
16 vessels and mariners; and

17 WHEREAS, mariners aboard Jones Act vessels strengthen America's homeland  
18 security as added eyes and ears monitoring the nation's 95,000 miles of shoreline and 25,000  
19 miles of navigable inland waterways; and

1           WHEREAS, Louisiana is home to 70,780 maritime jobs supported by the Jones Act,  
2 the highest among all states, that generate more than \$4.2 billion in worker income; and

3           WHEREAS, maritime industry jobs create ladders of opportunity through  
4 high-paying, family-wage careers that offer significant advancement opportunities without  
5 requiring advanced formal education; and

6           WHEREAS, the more than 40,000 vessel strong Jones Act fleet supports nearly  
7 650,000 family-wage jobs and over \$154 billion in economic output nationally and \$18.2  
8 billion to the Louisiana economy.

9           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
10 affirm its resolute support for the Jones Act and celebrates the 103-year history of the Jones  
11 Act in fostering a strong domestic maritime industry that is critical to Louisiana's and the  
12 nation's security and economic prosperity.

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be immediately  
14 transmitted to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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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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HCR 4 Engrossed

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Orgeron

Expresses the support of the legislature for the 103- year history of the Jones Act, which has created ladders for opportunities globally.