

2023 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 178

BY SENATOR STINE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

LOCAL AGENCIES. Provides for grant programs to attract residents to Louisiana.
(gov sig)

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AN ACT

To enact Chapter 50 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 33:9720, relative to municipalities and parishes; to provide relative to population growth; to provide with respect to a grant program to attract residents to Louisiana; to provide incentives to prospective residents through the use of income tax reimbursements; to provide relative to the purpose and administration of such grants; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Chapter 50 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 33:9720, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

CHAPTER 50. GROW LOUISIANA GRANT PROGRAM

§9720. GROW LOUISIANA GRANT PROGRAM

A. Findings and purpose. (1) The legislature finds that the population of Louisiana is consistently declining year by year. The rate of deaths and people leaving Louisiana is outpacing births and immigration to the state. Retaining and attracting residents is vital to growth and the economic success of the state of Louisiana. Population loss translates into fewer customers and

1 workers for local businesses and a diminishing tax base for public services. The
 2 state of Louisiana and its municipalities could benefit from a grant program that
 3 incentivizes individuals to move to this state and move the state forward.

4 (2) The legislature recognizes that many municipalities are facing
 5 increasing residential loss and uprooting and that there is a need for
 6 revitalization through creative initiatives which attract new citizens. It is the
 7 purpose of this Chapter to encourage immigration to Louisiana.

8 B. Creation. There is hereby created the "Grow Louisiana Grant
 9 Program", referred to in this Section as the "grant", which would allow local
 10 governing authorities to reimburse an individual's annual Louisiana individual
 11 income tax liability as an exchange for an out-of-state citizen or citizen of the
 12 state of Louisiana relocating to a municipality that it governs.

13 C. Governance. The local governing authority shall establish the
 14 criteria for the grant, administer the grant, and establish any other rules
 15 necessary to implement the provisions of this Chapter.

16 D. Funding. The local governing authority shall appropriate funds to
 17 pay for the grant. Implementation of the grant shall be subject to the
 18 availability of funds for this purpose.

19 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 20 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 21 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 22 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 23 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by James Benton.

Proposed law provides that the legislature finds that the population of Louisiana is consistently declining. Population loss translates into fewer customers and workers for local businesses and a diminishing tax base for public services. The state of Louisiana and its municipalities could benefit from a grant program that incentivizes individuals to move to this state and move the state forward.

Proposed law provides that the legislature recognizes that many municipalities are facing increasing residential loss and uprooting and that there is a need for revitalization through creative initiatives which attract new citizens. It is the purpose of proposed law to encourage immigration to Louisiana.

Proposed law provides that there is hereby created the "Grow Louisiana Grant Program", referred to in proposed law as the "grant", which would allow local governing authorities to reimburse an individual's annual individual income tax liability as an exchange for an out-of-state citizen or citizen of the state of Louisiana relocating to a municipality that it governs.

Proposed law provides that the local governing authority shall establish the criteria for grant, administer the grant, and establish rules necessary for the implementation of the grant.

Proposed law provides that the local governing authority shall appropriate funds to pay for the grant. Implementation of the grant shall be subject to the availability of funds.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 33:9720)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs to the original bill

1. Removes provisions related to disclosures from the Department of Revenue.