

**SENATE FLOOR AMENDMENTS**

2023 Regular Session

Amendments proposed by Senator Cortez to Engrossed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3 by Senator Cortez

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

"WHEREAS, the expenditure limit was authorized by the Legislature and ratified by the electors of the state of Louisiana in 1990 to provide stability and ensure fiscal responsibility in a time of great uncertainty in state revenues in concert with other budgetary reforms, including the codification of the creation of the Revenue Estimating Conference, balanced budget requirements and procedures for mitigating a projected or year-end deficit into the state constitution; and

WHEREAS, the expenditure limit was intended to restrain growth in the ordinary expenditures of the state by coordinating the growth in the state's expenditures to the growth in the drivers of state revenues and to achieve this outcome the legislature provided for a mechanism to change the expenditure limit in times of unprecedented growth of state resources; and

WHEREAS, since 2006, the expenditure limit has permanently been rebased downward twice and, conversely, it has never been used for ordinary operating expenses and has only been increased for specific purposes on two occasions, in 2007 and 2008; and

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 10 of the Louisiana Constitution specifically limits the expenditure of nonrecurring revenues to six purposes: (1) the retiring or defeasance of debt; (2) payments toward the unfunded accrued liability of the state retirement systems; (3) capital outlay projects in the comprehensive state capital budget; (4) deposits into the Budget Stabilization Fund; (5) deposits into the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund; and (6) new highway construction for which federal funds are available; and

WHEREAS, increasing the expenditure limit in 2023 for the use of surplus and excess revenue on one-time investments in infrastructure and deferred maintenance will not increase future expenditure obligations; and

WHEREAS, failure to increase the expenditure limit to address the numerous backlogs, infrastructure needs, highway projects, and other capital priorities across the state will produce constraints on future operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, the state's higher education institutions have a backlog of deferred maintenance projects totaling approximately \$1.8 billion, of which \$360 million is needed to fund the projects the universities place as a priority, \$121.8 million is the cost of the most pressing projects on that priority list, and \$5.6 million in demolition needs to remove unusable buildings; and

WHEREAS, transportation construction projects could be jeopardized without the approval of the funding requested in 2023 for fully funding the projects authorized during the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 legislative session; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's ports are economic engines for their local communities and the entire state, and investments in the infrastructure of the ports across the state provides both local and state returns many times over; and

WHEREAS the current needs of the Port Priority Program total \$166.7 million with the estimated benefits of these projects totaling \$2.2 billion to the local communities and \$3 billion to the state; and

WHEREAS, protecting and restoring the coastal resources of the state is of extreme importance, in terms of citizen safety, recreation, and enjoyment as well as wildlife habitation and land retention, the Legislature has appropriated in addition to the state's ongoing coastal master plan expenditures, supplemental funding of \$150 million in the current fiscal year and \$157 million recommended for Fiscal Year 2023-24 for various river studies, restoration partnerships, and construction projects for levees, pump stations, marsh creation, shoreline protection, lock structures, canal backfilling, and breakwaters; and

1           WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the importance of lowering  
2 homeowner's insurance premiums for Louisiana residents through supporting the  
3 Insure Louisiana Incentive Fund and the Louisiana Fortify Homes Fund; and

4           WHEREAS, the Legislature also recognizes the importance of ensuring the  
5 Louisiana Water Systems are safe, effective, and resilient; and"

6 AMENDMENT NO. 2

7 On page 2, delete lines 7 through 15, and insert the following:

8           "of Five Hundred Million and No/100 (\$500,000,000.00) Dollars to change the  
9 expenditure limit for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 to Sixteen Billion Three Hundred  
10 Eighty-Nine Million Two Hundred Sixty-Three Thousand Three Hundred  
11 Forty-Three and No/100 (\$16,389,263,343.00) Dollars and to increase the  
12 expenditure limit for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 by the amount One Billion Eight  
13 Hundred Million and No/100 (\$1,800,000,000.00) Dollars to change the expenditure  
14 limit for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 to Eighteen Billion Two Hundred Ninety-Seven  
15 Million Seven Hundred Twenty-One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-Two and No/100  
16 (\$18,297,721,252.00) Dollars."