HLS 23RS-3535 ORIGINAL

2023 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 137

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREIBERG

CONGRESS: Memorializes Congress to grant states optional flexibility through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to integrate and improve service delivery of federally funded assistance programs

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to grant
3	states optional flexibility through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in
4	order to integrate and improve service delivery of federally funded assistance
5	programs, create cost efficiencies, and strategically allocate resources to support
6	state needs and workforce priorities.
7	WHEREAS, the federal government funds a multitude of social services,
8	employment, and job training programs that are, in turn, administered by state and local
9	agencies and entities within that state; and
10	WHEREAS, one example of these social services, employment, and job training
11	programs funded by the federal government is the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
12	Act (WIOA); and
13	WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Labor, the WIOA was
14	created for the purposes of strengthening and improving our nation's public workforce
15	system by aiding American citizens, particularly young Americans and Americans with
16	significant barriers to employment, in finding high-quality jobs and careers and assisting
17	employers in hiring and retaining skilled workers; and
18	WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau, in 2021, approximately
19	twenty percent of the people in Louisiana lived in poverty; and

1	WHEREAS, according to an article published by the Urban Institute in April, one
2	of Louisiana's largest spending areas per capita is public welfare, which the state spends
3	almost three thousand dollars per capita; and
4	WHEREAS, some of these social services, employment, and job training programs,
5	such as WIOA, funded by the federal government and utilized by states and localities are
6	intended to assist under-served people; and
7	WHEREAS, despite efforts over the years to deliver services to beneficiaries in a
8	coordinated manner, many individuals in Louisiana in need of services and support struggle
9	to navigate fragmented, complex delivery systems and leverage social services programs to
10	achieve positive outcomes such as employment and self-sufficiency; and
11	WHEREAS, according to an article published by the American Enterprise Institute
12	in August 2020, Utah's legislative auditor conducted a legislative audit in 1992 of Utah's
13	twenty-three workforce programs, which was administered by six agencies; and
14	WHEREAS, according to that audit, it was revealed that there was "system
15	fragmentation that made it difficult for Utah residents to access key services, particularly
16	those from disadvantaged backgrounds"; and
17	WHEREAS, the article also mentioned how "over the past two decades, Utah has
18	developed a particularly innovative approach in its efforts to integrate workforce,
19	employment, and training programs"; and
20	WHEREAS, one of the innovative approaches Utah has taken is by tasking Utah's
21	Department of Workforce Services to integrate these federally funded programs and deliver
22	multiple services through "one door", allowing individuals to work with a single caseworker
23	who provides support with applying for qualifying programs, reviewing education, skills,
24	and living needs, and assisting in accessing job training, education, and workforce programs;
25	and
26	WHEREAS, this "one door" policy utilized by Utah has systemically reduced the
27	fragmentation that has hampered these programs' effectiveness for decades, and such a
28	policy serves as a model for other states to emulate; and
29	WHEREAS, as a result of these efforts and approaches, in the wake of the
30	coronavirus pandemic and shutdowns, Utah was one of the first states in the nation to

HLS 23RS-3535

ORIGINAL
HCR NO. 137

rebound to pre-pandemic employment levels and the state also recovered with employment
growth of nearly five percent by April 2022; and
WHEREAS, since the "one door" policy has proven to be such a success for Utah,

all states should have the flexibility to implement the "one door" policy in order to give

citizens one door out of poverty and into opportunity.

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to grant states optional flexibility through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in order to integrate and improve service delivery of federally funded assistance programs, create cost efficiencies, and strategically allocate resources to support state needs and workforce priorities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

## 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 137 Original

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Freiberg

Memorializes the U.S. Congress to take such actions as are necessary to grant states optional flexibility through the WIOA in order to integrate and improve service delivery of federally funded assistance programs, create cost efficiencies, and strategically allocate resources to support state needs and workforce priorities.