

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 127

BY REPRESENTATIVE MAGEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Economic Development, in consultation with the Louisiana Workforce Commission, to evaluate the state's business advantages, economic climate, and workforce readiness to compete in attracting offshore wind energy supply chain industries to the state and to report their findings no later than February 1, 2024.

WHEREAS, some estimates indicate that America's offshore wind industry presents a one hundred nine billion dollar revenue opportunity to businesses in the offshore wind supply chain over the next ten years; and

WHEREAS, recent Bureau of Ocean Energy Management lease auctions in federal waters off four states have cumulatively generated almost five billion five hundred million dollars in revenue, demonstrating the private sector's commitment to developing this new energy resource; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is planning lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico, including off Lake Charles, and the Louisiana Legislature has previously expanded the size of wind leases in state waters; and

WHEREAS, multiple industrial-scale offshore wind farms are set for construction in United States waters; and

WHEREAS, several Louisiana firms have already made critical contributions to America's existing offshore wind facilities and continue to develop critical ship and installation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's leadership in offshore energy production as well as existing maritime trades, workforce, and manufacturing assets give this state a competitive advantage to attract new investment and expand businesses in this emerging sector; and

WHEREAS, the enhanced economic activity in the offshore wind supply chain has the potential to generate new jobs, support a skilled workforce, and increase local tax bases throughout the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Economic Development, in consultation with Louisiana Workforce Commission, to study this state's potential economic and workforce growth opportunities and challenges related to attracting new businesses and assist with the expansion of existing offshore wind supply chain companies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than February 1, 2024, the Department of Economic Development shall submit to the elected members of the legislature and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library a written report featuring key findings from the study called for in this Resolution and recommendations concerning the means by which this state can enhance its competitive economic advantage in the offshore wind supply chain sector and develop the needed skilled workforce within this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study called for in this Resolution may consider and identify:

(1) Discrete segments within the offshore supply chain, including advanced manufacturing operations, specialty component manufacturing, seaport network infrastructure, ship building, component assembly, transportation and distribution, and ancillary services for future offshore wind energy projects.

(2) For each segment of the offshore wind supply chain, the estimated number and type of current and potential offshore wind supply chain jobs.

(3) Potential industry growth and activity in this state's existing seaport network, advanced manufacturing, energy production and management, shipbuilding, and other related industries.

(4) The greatest impact investment options to produce the largest net economic output, including identification of the geographic areas and local tax bases most likely to benefit.

(5) Necessary upgrades to this state's port infrastructure to accommodate offshore wind installation vessel construction and component assembly.

(6) Expected additional contributions to state economic output and potential ancillary economic benefits.

(7) Any additional information the Department of Economic Development or consulting agencies identifies as relevant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report called for in this Resolution may include the following:

(1) An analysis of current resources in this state compared to the workforce education, training, development, and recruitment needed to offer a skilled workforce for employers in the offshore wind supply chain industry.

(2) An evaluation of the potential benefits of and opportunities to develop private-sector partnerships of offshore wind supply chain industries to support workforce development and training.

(3) An assessment of opportunities for partnerships with neighboring states to undertake complementary actions, policies, and investments that will help achieve a domestic supply chain and workforce.

(4) Identification of available funding, including from federal programs and resources, to support the recruitment and expansion of offshore wind supply chain companies and related workforce development.

(5) Actionable recommendations for this state to recruit new businesses and assist with the expansion of existing, offshore wind supply chain companies.

(6) Recommendations for further study, policies, or investments in aspects of the offshore wind energy supply chain.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Economic Development and the secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE