

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 585

BY REPRESENTATIVES ECHOLS AND THOMPSON

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 36:109(B)(4) and Chapter 39-D of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes  
3 of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 51:2400.1 through 2400.10, relative to creating a  
4 council focused on economic development goals; to provide for purpose; to provide  
5 for definitions; to provide for the creation of the Council of Economic Prosperity; to  
6 provide for composition of the council; to provide for council officers; to provide for  
7 the creation of the State Plan for Economic Development; to provide for an annual  
8 action plan; to provide for council powers; to provide for the implementation of a  
9 master plan and action plans; to provide for the creation of the Advisory Commission  
10 on Economic Development; and to provide for related matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 36:109(B)(4) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §109. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department  
14 of Economic Development

15 \* \* \*

16 B. The following agencies are placed within the Department of Economic  
17 Development and shall perform and exercise their powers, duties, functions, and  
18 responsibilities as provided by law:

19 \* \* \*

20 (4) The Council for Economic Prosperity (R.S. 51:2400.1 et seq.).

21 \* \* \*

1           Section 2. Chapter 39-D of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,  
2           comprised of R.S. 51:2400.1 through 2400.10, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

3                           CHAPTER 39-D. COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

4           §2400.1. Purpose

5                           The purpose of this Chapter is to ensure that the state engages in  
6           comprehensive strategic planning for economic development. This planning should  
7           incorporate both long-term vision and short-term operational objectives, fully  
8           integrate all state and private sector development entities and programs, and produce  
9           a clearly articulated state philosophy on economic development. The strategic plan  
10           shall include a set of measurable objectives for the progressive development of the  
11           state's economy, business environment, infrastructure, educational systems, human  
12           resources, and tax structures, with the goal of steady and predictable economic  
13           growth, full employment for all workers, and a responsive state government  
14           delivering needed services to our citizens in an efficient and cost-effective way.

15           §2400.2. Definitions

16                           As used in this Chapter, notwithstanding any laws to the contrary, the  
17           following terms have the following meanings ascribed to them:

18                           (1) "Accountability" means the method used to measure results.

19                           (2) "Action plans" means the detailed descriptions of how strategies will be  
20           implemented on an operational basis.

21                           (3) "Benchmarking" means the process of rating the state's practices,  
22           priorities, and products against the best.

23                           (4) "Goals" mean the general end purposes toward which effort is directed.

24                           (5) "Mission" means a broad comprehensive statement of the organization's  
25           purpose.

26                           (6) "Objectives" mean specific and measurable targets for accomplishments.

27                           (7) "Philosophy" means the organization's core values, describing how the  
28           organization conducts itself carrying out its mission.

29                           (8) "Strategies" mean the methods used to accomplish goals and objectives.

30                           (9) "Vision" means a compelling conceptual image of the desired future.

1           §2400.3. Council for Economic Prosperity; creation; scope

2           The Council for Economic Prosperity is hereby created and shall be  
3           responsible for directing the economic development policymaking and strategic  
4           economic development planning of the state. The council shall formulate a  
5           comprehensive strategic plan for economic development in this state to be known as  
6           the State Plan for Economic Development, and shall work in concert with the  
7           Advisory Commission on Economic Development to provide direction and  
8           coordination for the implementation of all state measures required or generated by  
9           the goals and objectives adopted in the plan.

10          §2400.4. Composition of council; terms; compensation

11           A. The council shall be comprised of seventeen members including the  
12           governor and the secretary of economic development. Appointment of members  
13           shall begin upon the commencement of the 2024 Regular Session.

14           B. Eleven members shall be appointed by the governor, two members shall  
15           be appointed by the president of the Senate, two members shall be appointed by the  
16           speaker of the House of Representatives, and shall be subject to Senate confirmation.  
17           All members appointed to the council shall serve a four-year term. All gubernatorial  
18           appointments shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

19           (1) The governor shall appoint members, with inclusion of at least one  
20           member from north Louisiana and one member from south Louisiana, as follows:

21           (a) A representative of the venture capital or investment banking community.

22           (b) A representative from the higher education community.

23           (c) A representative from local government.

24           (d) A representative of the agricultural community.

25           (e) A representative of the professional or service community.

26           (f) A representative of the mining industry.

27           (g) A representative of the banking community.

28           (h) A representative of the construction industry.

29           (i) Three manufacturers from three different Standard Industrial

30           Classification Codes.

1                   (2) The president of the Senate shall appoint members as follows:

2                   (a) One economic development professional from an urban area.

3                   (b) One economic development professional from a rural area.

4                   (3) The speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint members as  
 5                   follows:

6                   (a) One economic development professional from an urban area.

7                   (b) One economic development professional from a rural area.

8                   C.(1) The eleven members appointed by the governor shall serve staggered  
 9                   terms so that four appointments shall expire at two years, four appointments shall  
 10                   expire at three years, and three appointments shall expire at four years, from the date  
 11                   of initial appointment.

12                   (2) The terms of the members provided for in this Subsection shall be  
 13                   determined by the governor.

14                   (3) Thereafter, each appointment shall serve a four-year term.

15                   D.(1) Each member appointed to the council or serving ex officio pursuant  
 16                   to this Section may designate another person to represent him on committee work  
 17                   assigned by the council, but may not be represented by another person for meetings  
 18                   of the full council, nor shall any designee be permitted to vote on final adoption of  
 19                   the master plan.

20                   (2) A member serving on more than one committee may designate different  
 21                   individuals to represent him on different committees, if each such designee has  
 22                   expertise in the subject matter committee for which he is designated.

23                   (3) A member of the executive committee may not designate a representative  
 24                   for participation on the executive committee.

25                   (4) The chairman may designate a representative for any meeting, duty, or  
 26                   responsibility pursuant to his membership on the council, except, notwithstanding  
 27                   any provision of law to the contrary, the chairman shall not designate a  
 28                   representative to chair the full council meeting at which final adoption of the master  
 29                   plan is considered and voted upon. The chairman shall personally preside over such  
 30                   a meeting.

1           §2400.5. Council officers; quorum; compensation; meetings

2                   A.(1)(a) The governor shall serve as chairman of the council.

3                   (b) The vice chairman shall be elected by the council from among those  
 4                   members.

5                   (2) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development shall  
 6                   coordinate and supervise all staff work, including the work of staff on loan or  
 7                   assignment from other agencies of government or the private sector, at the direction  
 8                   of the executive committee of the council.

9                   B. Nine members of the council shall constitute a quorum.

10                  C. Members of the council shall serve without compensation, but each  
 11                  member shall be entitled to reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses incurred  
 12                  in the performance of official duties in accordance with state travel regulations.

13                  D.(1) The full council shall meet quarterly, but shall have authority to meet  
 14                  at such other times as deemed necessary by either the governor, the executive  
 15                  committee, or a majority of the members.

16                  (2) Only one of the mandatory quarterly meetings shall take place in Baton  
 17                  Rouge. The other three meeting places will be determined by the chairman of the  
 18                  council.

19                  §2400.6. State Plan for Economic Development; plan components; submission;  
 20                  adoption

21                  A. The Council for Economic Prosperity shall formulate and establish the  
 22                  state's economic development policy and coordinate and ensure its implementation  
 23                  through the Department of Economic Development, the office of the governor, and  
 24                  the division of administration.

25                  B. The council shall formulate the State Plan for Economic Development  
 26                  herein referred to as the "state plan", which shall include, at a minimum, all of the  
 27                  following:

28                   (1) The vision, mission, and philosophy of the state in achieving economic  
 29                   prosperity, a robust business climate, and high-quality employment opportunities for  
 30                   all citizens.

1                   (2) An economic model for this state for a twenty-year period, divided into  
2                   five-year incremental planning and benchmarking periods.

3                   (3) An analysis of the current global, hemispheric, and national economies,  
4                   their impact on the economy of this state, and the nature of the competitive  
5                   environment within which the state work force and business community must  
6                   compete.

7                   (4) An analysis of broad trends of economic change on the national and  
8                   regional levels in the United States.

9                   (5) A comprehensive needs assessment and baseline analysis of the state's  
10                  infrastructure, business climate, transportation network, economic policy,  
11                  educational systems, natural resources, rural development, economic mix, tax  
12                  structures, revenue stream, industrial inducements and incentives, and manufacturing  
13                  base. This analysis shall also assess the state's strengths and weaknesses relative to  
14                  the external economic environment.

15                  (6) An analysis of the sustainability of the current state's economy over time.  
16                  A twenty-year state plan, divided into five-year increments, with goals and  
17                  objectives designed to attain an effective diversified economic mix of business and  
18                  industry which would ensure economic prosperity, full employment, resistance to  
19                  recession, and consistent growth consonant with national and global trends.

20                  (7) Broad strategies, which when implemented, will permit the state to fulfill  
21                  goals and objectives of the economic vision set forth in the state plan. In  
22                  consultation with the Advisory Commission on Economic Development, the council  
23                  shall submit an outline of how the overall master state plan and five-year objectives  
24                  will be implemented through the submission of an annual Economic Development  
25                  Action Plan herein referred to as the "action plan". The action plan shall include  
26                  strategies and action plans developed by the various departments and approved by  
27                  the governor.

28                  (8) A comprehensive benchmarking and accountability program to measure  
29                  the performance of the state's economy and work force and measure the effectiveness  
30                  of and progress toward achieving the objectives of each strategy and action plan.

1           C. The council or the executive committee shall hold at least two public  
2           hearings for the specific purpose of gathering the testimony of the general public on  
3           the master state plan, in order to allow citizens to have input prior to submission of  
4           the state plan to the legislature for approval.

5           D.(1) The council shall adopt the final plan by a majority vote of the total  
6           council membership and shall submit the plan to the legislature for approval or  
7           rejection.

8           (2) The plan shall be submitted to the governor, the president of the Senate,  
9           the speaker of the House of Representatives, the chairman of the Senate Committee  
10          on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs, and the chairman of  
11          the House Committee on Commerce no later than December 31, 2024.

12          (3)(a) The legislature shall, by majority vote of the membership of each  
13          house, adopt a concurrent resolution to accept, reject, or return the master plan to the  
14          council for revision.

15          (b) Any rejected or revised plan which is resubmitted when the legislature  
16          is not in session, or is in session but is constitutionally prohibited from considering  
17          a resolution of adoption, may be adopted by a majority vote of the House of  
18          Representatives and of the Senate through a written ballot procedure.

19          E. The state plan shall be updated and resubmitted every five years,  
20          commencing with the December 31, 2024, initial submission. The reformulation and  
21          updating of the master state plan every five years shall incorporate a new twenty-  
22          year time frame, also divided into five-year components.

23          §2400.7. Annual action plan

24          A. On December thirty-first of each year following submission of the  
25          original state master plan, the council shall submit an annual report and the action  
26          plan to the governor, the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of  
27          Representatives, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer  
28          Protection, and International Affairs, and the chairman of the House Committee on  
29          Commerce.

30          B. The annual action plan shall include, at the minimum, all of the following:

1                   (1) A report of council work, deliberations, and actions during the prior year.

2                   (2) A comprehensive program of recommended strategies and action plans  
 3 for implementation in the next state fiscal year, including but not limited to  
 4 budgetary, legislative, regulatory, program, and private sector initiatives. Each  
 5 strategy and action plan shall have measurable goals and objectives which are fully  
 6 integrated into the master plan benchmarking and accountability model.

7                   (3) An overview of the benchmarking and accountability program and  
 8 presentation of the results obtained during the prior year.

9                   (4) An analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of all initiatives, operational  
 10 strategies, and action plans implemented in the prior year.

11                   (5) An explanation of why any strategies or initiatives were not implemented  
 12 or failed, and recommendations on how to achieve their successful implementation.

13                   (6) An analysis of changes and trends in the external economic environment.

14 §2400.8. Additional council powers and duties; executive committee,  
 15 subcommittees

16                   A. The council shall, consistent with the state plan, establish guidelines in  
 17 accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act by which all economic  
 18 development funding, awards, grants, incentives, and guarantees are prioritized,  
 19 whether such issue from the office of the secretary, any other office of the  
 20 department, or through any program of the Louisiana Economic Development  
 21 Corporation.

22                   B.(1) The council shall establish a seven-member executive committee, to  
 23 be chaired by the chairman of the council, which shall have authority to call  
 24 meetings of the council, establish committee schedules, direct the work of staff on  
 25 loan or assignment, and meet with the Advisory Commission on Economic  
 26 Development. The vice chairman of the council shall represent the council before  
 27 the legislature.

28                   (2) The executive committee shall have authority to divide the work of the  
 29 council into discrete areas and to establish and appoint subcommittees as follows:

30                   (a) Infrastructure.



- 1                    (b) Education and work force training.
- 2                    (c) Taxation and state revenue.
- 3                    (d) Finance and capital.
- 4                    (e) Economic development programs and incentives.
- 5                    (f) Economic modeling and diversification.
- 6                    (g) Rural development.
- 7                    (h) Innovation, entrepreneurship, and research.
- 8                    (i) Talent development, attraction, and retention.
- 9                    (j) Career education and readiness.
- 10                  (k) Regional Economic Development, which shall include members that

represent all of the following regions:

- 12                  (i) Acadiana.
- 13                  (ii) Bayou.
- 14                  (iii) Capital.
- 15                  (iv) Central.
- 16                  (v) Northeast.
- 17                  (vi) Northwest.
- 18                  (vii) Southeast.
- 19                  (viii) Southwest.
- 20                  (l) Any other committees deemed appropriate.

(3)(a) The executive committee shall meet at least once quarterly with the Advisory Commission on Economic Development to exchange information and facilitate implementation strategies.

(b) The executive committee may request assignment of one staff member from each agency represented on the advisory group for utilization on an ad hoc basis with the council or a subcommittee of the council.

C. The council shall have authority to promulgate all rules, regulations, and procedures, and to hold hearings, as it deems necessary and appropriate to its responsibilities and charge, pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act.

§2400.9. Implementation of master plan and action plans

1           A. The governor shall direct all appropriate agency heads to implement all  
 2           budgetary, regulatory, and programmatic strategies and actions recommended in the  
 3           state plan and in each annual action plan, subject to constitutional restrictions.

4           B. The commissioner of administration shall implement, as directed by the  
 5           governor, all budgetary and programmatic strategies and actions recommended in  
 6           each annual action plan and shall require their inclusion by any impacted department  
 7           in all appropriate budget, program, and planning documents. All such strategies and  
 8           actions having budgetary or programmatic impact shall be included in the  
 9           preparation and submission of the executive budget to the legislature.

10           §2400.10. Advisory Commission on Economic Development

11           A. The Advisory Commission on Economic Development, herein referred  
 12           to as the "advisory commission", shall be comprised of the following ex officio  
 13           members:

- 14                   (1) Lieutenant governor or his designee.
- 15                   (2) Secretary of the Department of Economic Development or his designee.
- 16                   (3) Commissioner of the division of administration or his designee.
- 17                   (4) Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development or his  
 18                   designee.
- 19                   (5) Secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission or his designee.
- 20                   (6) Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources or his designee.
- 21                   (7) Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality or his designee.
- 22                   (8) Superintendent of education or his designee.
- 23                   (9) State treasurer or his designee.
- 24                   (10) Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry or his  
 25                   designee.
- 26                   (11) Secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services or his  
 27                   designee.

28           B.(1) The advisory commission shall advise, coordinate with, and provide  
 29           research, information, and staff support to the Council for Economic Prosperity upon  
 30           the request of the council or executive committee.

1                   (2) The commissioner of administration shall assign a staff member with  
2                   expertise in strategic planning to the advisory group.

3                   (3) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development shall assign  
4                   a staff member with expertise in strategic planning who is part of the master state  
5                   plan staff team to the advisory group, and shall act as administrator of the advisory  
6                   commission.

7                   C. The advisory commission shall meet quarterly with the executive  
8                   committee of the council to exchange information and facilitate implementation of  
9                   the master state plan and annual action plans.

10                  D. Each member of the advisory commission shall, as directed by the  
11                  governor, direct the implementation of the policies, directives, and components of  
12                  the state plan and any budgetary, legislative, regulatory, or program initiative  
13                  contained in an action plan which would affect or require the action of the agency  
14                  of his responsibility and charge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_