

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 108

BY REPRESENTATIVES MYERS, AMEDEE, BEAULLIEU, BILLINGS, BOURRIAQUE, BRASS, BRYANT, BUTLER, CARRIER, CHASSION, EMERSON, FARNUM, HEBERT, HENRY, JACOB LANDRY, MILLER, ROMERO, ST. BLANC, TARVER, WILEY, AND ZERINGUE AND SENATORS BOUDREAUX, COUSSAN, HENSGENS, KLEINPETER, MIGUEZ, PRICE, REESE, AND STINE

COMMENDATIONS: Commends the 2024 Festival Acadiens et Creoles in Lafayette on the occasion of the festival's fiftieth anniversary

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To commend the 2024 *Festival Acadiens et Créoles* in Lafayette on the occasion the
3 festival's fiftieth anniversary.

4 WHEREAS, Acadians, or Cajuns as they are known in South Louisiana, were exiled
5 from Nova Scotia in 1755; they brought with them a rich cultural heritage that blended
6 French, Celtic, Scots-Irish, and Native American traditions, and this mixture is most evident
7 in their rich folklore and catalogue of songs and dances; and

8 WHEREAS, by the turn of the twentieth century, the French language was nearly
9 pushed into obscurity in the United States as a result of the increasing homogenization of
10 American culture; and

11 WHEREAS, the French language was further challenged in 1916 when mandatory
12 English language education was imposed on the American South; in an attempt to address
13 low literacy rates in the South, French and other non-English languages were rooted out;
14 tragically, several generations of Cajuns and Créoles were convinced that speaking French
15 was a sign of cultural illegitimacy; and

16 WHEREAS, the French language experienced a resurgence in the late 1940s after
17 French-speaking American soldiers serving in France discovered that the language made
18 them invaluable as interpreters; after the war, many returning servicemen immersed

1 themselves in their local cultures, and dance halls in South Louisiana hummed with the
2 familiar and comforting sounds of Cajun music; and

3 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana officially recognized the Cajun cultural revival
4 by creating the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) in 1968;
5 under the chairmanship of James Domengeaux, CODOFIL began efforts on political,
6 psychological, and educational fronts to erase the stigma Louisianians had long attached to
7 the French language and culture; and

8 WHEREAS, CODOFIL organized the first Tribute to Cajun Music Festival in 1974;
9 the festival served as the catalyst needed to attract and educate the younger generation to the
10 traditional values of Cajun culture; the first Tribute to Cajun Music concert was held in
11 Lafayette's Blackham Coliseum on March 26, 1974; in 1976, the council moved the concert
12 to Girard Park, and the Natural History Museum agreed to hold its crafts festival on the same
13 weekend; and

14 WHEREAS, *Festival Acadiens et Créoles* is a cooperative of independent festivals
15 that began as *Festival Acadiens* in 1977; the oldest single component of the group is the
16 Louisiana Native and Contemporary Crafts Festival, which debuted as the Louisiana Native
17 Crafts Festival on October 28, 1972, on the grounds of the Lafayette Natural History
18 Museum near Girard Park; the festival is a combination of events focusing on the crafts,
19 music, and food of South Louisiana; and

20 WHEREAS, *Festival Acadiens* developed a community board and became an
21 independent nonprofit cooperation in 2007; the next year, the co-op officially changed its
22 name to *Festivals Acadiens et Créoles* to more accurately reflect the cultures that make up
23 the three components of the festival; and

24 WHEREAS, since the 1970s, the festival has consistently championed creative
25 cultural continuity; the organizers strive to present the current state of the culture through
26 performances ranging from the oldest Cajun ballads to the latest in experimental Cajun and
27 Zydeco music; additionally, the Cajun and Créole chefs and craftsmen continue to invest
28 themselves in the celebration of this rich culture.

29 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
30 commend the 2024 *Festival Acadiens et Créoles* in Lafayette on the occasion the festival's

1 fiftieth anniversary and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that the festival's organizers,
2 participants, and attendees continue supporting and sharing South Louisiana's culture for
3 many more years to come.

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 108 Original

2024 Regular Session

Myers

Commends the 2024 *Festival Acadiens et Créoles* in Lafayette on the occasion the festival's 50th anniversary.