

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 139

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Commissioners of the Greater Baton Rouge Airport District to study the feasibility of performing additional functions of economic and industrial development.

WHEREAS, the Baton Rouge Airport (BTR) is one of the economic pillars of the community, providing over four thousand direct and indirect jobs and over one billion in annual economic output; and

WHEREAS, BTR operates as a self-sufficient enterprise fund, produces its own revenues for operations, and does not use local tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, BTR already provides functions of economic development such as facilitating tourism, trade, connectivity, generating economic growth, providing jobs, improving living standards, providing a lifeline for remote communities, and enabling a rapid response when disasters occur.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Commissioners of the Greater Baton Rouge Airport District to study the feasibility of performing additional functions of economic and industrial development including but not be limited to the following:

- (1) Public relations, advertising, marketing, and providing and disseminating information.
- (2) Government relations, ombudsman, and government liaison.
- (3) Financial and financing assistance.
- (4) Tax abatement.
- (5) Planning and coordination for economic development and resource utilization, including such functions as industrial and economic research and industrial programming and solicitation.
- (6) Industrial training, technical assistance, and technology transfer.
- (7) The use of public and other legal powers to facilitate development.
- (8) Promoting transfer mechanisms to take ideas from their point of origin and

development to commercially successful utilization by local enterprises.

(9) Fostering entrepreneurial activity for the airport located in the parish.

(10) Promoting the development of new products, processes, or services or new uses for existing products, processes, or services manufactured or marketed for the airport located in the parish.

(11) Supporting market research aimed at identifying new markets for local or regional products and processes, including international markets; determining the characteristics, needs, and preferences of those markets; and developing new marketing techniques to exploit those markets.

(12) Fostering and supporting economic and industrial development and education in cooperation with private business enterprises, financial institutions, educational institutions, nonprofit institutions and organizations, state government and political subdivisions of the state, the federal government, and other organizations or persons concerned with research, development, education, commercial application, and economic or industrial development in ways which increase the economic base of the airport located in the parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works shall review the structural setup of the Board of Commissioners of the Greater Baton Rouge Airport District to determine if it is feasible to meet the demands of growth and development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the commission shall develop a plan indicating its ability to acquire, construct, improve, maintain, equip, operate, regulate, and protect economic development facilities, including the acquisition, maintenance and operation of buildings and other facilities, and the purchase of and sale of supplies, goods, and commodities as an incident to the operation of its properties. The plan should further establish the commission's ability to acquire and maintain economic development facilities in, over, and upon any public waters of this state, any submerged lands under such public water; and to construct and maintain buildings, landing floats, causeways, roadways, and bridges for approaches to or connecting with any such facilities, and landing floats and breakwaters for the protection thereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Commissioners of the Greater Baton Rouge Airport District to prepare and deliver the report to the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, the Senate Committee on Finance, and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than September 1, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Board of Commissioners of the Greater Baton Rouge Airport District.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE