

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 277

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to study the ways in which state laws relative to disadvantaged business entities or similar programs may conflict with federal standards and best practices and to report its findings and recommendations for proposed legislation to the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance.

WHEREAS, the federal government provides standards for contracting with disadvantaged business enterprises; and

WHEREAS, the federal government empowers state departments of transportation to administer such programs for transportation projects in the state; and

WHEREAS, in Louisiana, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development manages and oversees the state's disadvantaged business enterprises program consistent with federal requirements and acts as a standard-bearer for such programs; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Louisiana for disadvantaged business enterprises and similar programs to adhere to the best practices established by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, failing to adhere to best practices for disadvantaged business enterprises or similar set-aside programs can unnecessarily delay and increase costs for public projects and incentivize contracting with out-of-state businesses over locally-owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana law empowers some political subdivisions to create disadvantaged business enterprises or similar programs in manners that may be inconsistent with the best practices established by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, ensuring uniform application of federal best practices for such contracts is in the best interest of the citizens of the state; and

WHEREAS, making data-driven decisions relative to set-aside amounts is paramount to successful disadvantaged business enterprises or similar programs; and

WHEREAS, establishing and enforcing standards for certifications of businesses that qualify for disadvantaged business enterprises or similar programs is a core component of a successful program because such standards ensure a company is qualified and capable of performing the public work; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the House of Representatives of the Louisiana Legislature to aid persons and businesses in understanding and meeting standards for certification of disadvantaged business enterprises or similar programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to study the ways in which state laws relative to disadvantaged business entities or similar programs may conflict with federal standards and best practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana urges and requests the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to collaborate with the division of administration to report by December 15, 2024, its findings and recommendations for proposed legislation to bring the state statutes into conformity with best practices established by the federal government and to provide a copy of such findings and recommendations for proposed legislation to the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES