2024 Regular Session

**ACT No. 330** 

#### SENATE BILL NO. 293

BY SENATOR EDMONDS

1	AN ACT
2	To amend and reenact R.S. 36:301(B) and (C)(2) and to enact R.S. 17:3138.12(D)(4),
3	Chapter 11-A of Title 23 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised
4	of R.S. 23:1801, and R.S. 36:304(A)(10), relative to the Louisiana Workforce
5	Commission; to provide for workforce development; to provide relative to the
6	powers and duties of the secretary; to provide relative to the collection of integrated
7	data; to provide for reporting requirements; to provide for coordination and delivery
8	of workforce solutions; to provide for goals; and to provide for related matters.
9	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
10	Section 1. R.S. 17:3138.12(D)(4) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
11	§3138.12. Louisiana's Foundational Integrated Research System for Transformation
12	(LA FIRST)
13	* * *
14	D. LA FIRST, using the data center services of the Kathleen Babineaux
15	Blanco Public Policy Center, shall develop and annually publish the following
16	reports:
17	* * *
18	(4) Other ad hoc reports requested by any state entity listed in this
19	Section, or other state entities with prior approval of all parties to the data
20	sharing agreements associated with data used in developing the ad hoc report
21	and with requisite funding.
22	* * *
23	Section 2. Chapter 11-A of Title 23 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
24	comprised of R.S. 23:1801, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

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1	<b>CHAPTER 11-A. WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS</b>
2	§1801. Workforce solutions; development; coordination with employers
3	A. The Louisiana Workforce Commission shall coordinate and be
4	responsible for the delivery of business workforce solutions to address the state
5	of Louisiana's workforce and economic development needs through the various
6	workforce and educational agencies of the state. The secretary of the Louisiana
7	Workforce Commission shall have the authority to align or realign workforce
8	systems as necessary to better deliver workforce solutions to meet the needs of
9	the state economy and people of the state. The secretary shall convene the
10	leaders of the agencies listed in Paragraph (B)(1) of this Section in order to
11	guide their collaboration across these agencies and within their agencies to
12	improve the delivery of workforce solutions to businesses and their workforce
13	needs.
14	<b>B.(1)</b> The Board of Regents, the Louisiana Community and Technical
15	College System, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of
16	Education, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the Louisiana
17	State University system, and the Department of Children and Family Services
18	shall identify, recognize, change, create or recommend any initiatives, services,
19	data collection, research and programs that will promote workforce
20	development in the state.
21	(2) Recommendations for workforce development may include special
22	initiatives, ad hoc reports, or involvement and recommendations from the
23	following entities:
24	(a) The Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center at the
25	University of Louisiana at Lafayette or any other policy institute or center
26	operated by or affiliated with a public university located in the state of
27	Louisiana.
28	(b) Local workforce development boards.
29	(c) Regional economic development organizations.
30	(d) State and local chambers of commerce.

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1	(e) Parish or city economic development organizations.
2	(f) Other ad hoc reports developed and published pursuant to the
3	provisions of R.S. 17:3138.12 at the request of the secretary of any state entity
4	listed in that Section, or other state entities with prior approval of all parties to
5	the data sharing agreements associated with data used in developing the ad hoc
6	report and with requisite funding.
7	<b>C. Recommendations and development of workforce solutions shall seek</b>
8	to accomplish the following goals:
9	(1) Design and collaborate business solutions capabilities to enable
10	employers in every region of the state to have a single point of contact for
11	developing solutions to their immediate and long-term workforce needs.
12	(2) Provide a path for college students in Louisiana's four-year
13	universities and two-year colleges toward paid or unpaid internships in
14	Louisiana while they are in their associate degree, non-credit, or technical
15	credential program or bachelor's degree program, with the goal that their
16	internships are embedded in their degree programs, and are in their fields of
17	study or professional fields of interest after graduation. The Board of Regents
18	shall research and enact policies and procedures that incentivize Louisiana's
19	public institutions to incorporate work-based learning into their degree
20	program curricula and strengthen the impact of work-based learning on
21	graduate outcomes.
22	(3) Provide a path for high school participants to earn credit for a paid
23	internship or apprenticeship, through work-based learning by the time they
24	graduate from high school. As necessary, the Department of Education shall
25	recommend changes to the state accountability system to increase and reward
26	work-based learning in high schools throughout Louisiana. These internships
27	or apprenticeships should be available in a broad range of fields, including
28	professional and technical, and coordinated regionally and locally with
29	chambers of commerce and economic development organizations.
30	(4) Design a process for accurate workforce shortage forecasting relevant

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1	to the current state needs and forecasted economic development sector goals
2	reported to the state workforce investment council and Louisiana Economic
3	Development, annually.
4	(5) Organizations listed in Paragraph (B)(1) of this Section shall
5	<u>collaborate on development of an inventory of workforce programs in Louisiana</u>
6	and metrics on their performance, and report by February first of each year to
7	the governor and legislature on a strategy and progress to address and improve
8	workforce needs. The organizations shall develop common communication and
9	information for the public and business community to understand the state's
10	workforce vision with messages that guide improvement of workforce
11	development efforts in Louisiana.
12	(6) Identify, recommend, and pilot solutions that use nonprofit or private
13	partners for state workforce solutions where possible.
14	<b>D.(1)</b> The Louisiana Workforce Commission shall determine entities
15	responsible for convening the state's economic sectors with the greatest
16	workforce demand shortages to address solutions to the top three sectors'
17	shortages, annually. If the healthcare sector is determined to have workforce
18	shortages, the recommendations shall be comprehensive to also include
19	solutions for shortages of medical doctors and doctors of osteopathic medicine,
20	especially in rural Louisiana, as well as nursing and allied health professionals.
21	(2) The agencies and institutions listed in Paragraphs (B)(1) and (2) of
22	this Section shall provide educational attainment data from their constituents
23	to ensure achievement for sixty percent of adults to possess a postsecondary
24	degree or certificate in a trade by the year 2030, enabling more adults to possess
25	postsecondary degrees, diplomas, certificates, and credentials of value.
26	Section 3. R.S. 36:301(B) and (C)(2) are hereby amended and reenacted, and
27	304(A)(10) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
28	§301. Louisiana Workforce Commission; creation; domicile; composition; purposes
29	and functions
30	* * *

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1	B. The Louisiana Workforce Commission through its offices and officers,
2	shall administer and enforce laws and programs designed to protect the economic
3	and physical well-being of Louisiana's workforce and pursue the availability of the
4	workforce to meet the needs of the economy. The commission shall coordinate and
5	administer programs conducted by the state, or jointly with federal agencies, in the
6	area of labor-management relations, manpower evaluation and training, vocational
7	rehabilitation, independent living, blind services, employment, unemployment and
8	workers' compensation, job safety, and the licensing and regulation of certain types
9	of work. The commission shall be responsible for delivering workforce
10	development solutions for businesses and economic sectors of the economy and
11	coordinating with other state agencies and offices for the delivery of workforce
12	development solutions, as provided for in R.S. 23:1801. The commission shall
13	perform functions related to administration of the community services block grant
14	for which provision is initially made in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of
15	1981.
16	C.(1) * * *
17	(2) Except when changes are necessary for the efficient delivery of
18	workforce development solutions for businesses and economic sectors of the
19	economy, whenever Whenever the secretary determines that the administration of
20	the functions of the commission may be more efficiently performed by eliminating,
21	merging, or consolidating existing offices or establishing new offices, he shall
22	present a plan therefor to the legislature for its approval by statute.
23	* * *
24	§304. Powers and duties of secretary
25	A. In addition to the functions, powers, and duties otherwise vested in the
26	secretary by law, he shall:
27	* * *
28	(10) Be responsible for directing statewide workforce solutions and
29	workforce policy to meet the needs of businesses, the state economy, and the
30	economic sectors and regions of the state, in coordination with the secretary of

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1	the Department of Economic Development, the superintendent of education, the
2	commissioner of higher education, the president of the Louisiana Community
3	and Technical College System, and other agencies as are related to this purpose.
4	* * *

# PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

# SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

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