

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

SB 192

2024 Regular Session

Barrow

Present law establishes the Empowering Families to Live Well Louisiana Council within the Dept. of Children and Family Services.

Present law provides for the membership, duties, and functions of the council.

Proposed law would have changed the council's membership and meeting and reporting requirements.

Present law establishes the Research Park Corporation as a public nonprofit corporation authorized to create, develop, construct, operate, manage, and finance a research and development park in cooperation with the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, and the governing authority of the appropriate municipality or parish.

Present law provides for the membership, duties, and functions of the corporation.

Proposed law would have changed the corporation's membership and terms.

Would have become effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Proposed to amend R.S. 17:3396.4(A)(intro para) and 3396.4(A)(4)-(6) and (B) and R.S. 51:1057(B)(24) and (30), (D)(4), and (H); proposed to add R.S. 17:3396.4(A)(7) and (8); proposed to repeal R.S. 51:1057(B)(13) and (14), (17), (23), (25), and (29))

VETO MESSAGE:

"Please be advised that I have vetoed Senate Bill 192 of the 2024 Regular Session. Senate Bill 192 amends two separate titles to provide for the membership of two distinct entities. The bill amends R.S. 51:1057 to change the membership of the Empowering Families to Live Well Louisiana Council and provisions within Title 17 to change the membership of the board of directors for the Research Park Corporation.

This bill violates Louisiana Constitution art. III, §15 (A) which states: "Every bill, except the general appropriation bill and bills for the enactment, rearrangement, codification, or revision of a system of laws, shall be confined to one object." The Louisiana Supreme Court has explained that this constitutional requirement aims to prevent legislators from having to consider multiple unrelated matters when voting on a single bill. *Doherty v. Calcasieu Par. Sch. Bd.*, 93-3017 (La. 4/11/94), 634 So.2d 1172, 1175-76. According to the court, as long as, "the parts of a statute are reasonably related and have a natural connection to the general subject matter of the legislation, the statute is considered to have one object." *Id.* However, a bill cannot contain incongruous and unrelated matters. *Louisiana Federation of Teachers v. State*, 13-0120 (La. 5/7/13), 118 So.3d. 1033, 1071.

There is no reasonable relationship between the amendment of the membership of the Empowering Families to Live Well Louisiana Council and the membership of the Board of Directors for the Research Park Corporation. Even under the most liberal of tests, and with deference to the legislature, I cannot reasonably justify or discern a natural connection between these two subjects.

Additionally, this bill proposes adding a designee for Senate District 15 and House District 61 to the board of directors for the Research Park Corporation. The Corporation's mission is to promote the development of high technology industries, foster research, and increase employment opportunities across the State of Louisiana. While Senate Bill 192 aims to include additional members from the Baton Rouge area, it is important to note that Baton Rouge already has representation on the Corporation's board. Adding more members from this region does not align with the Corporation's objective of serving the entire state equitably. For Louisiana to thrive, we must collaborate as a unified team, ensuring opportunities for all regions. One Team. One Dream. One Louisiana."

