

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 951

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAMBURG

LABOR: Provides with respect to the creation of an Office of the Louisiana Talent Accelerator within Louisiana Works

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 39:1554(T) and to enact R.S. 23:2065(A)(12) through (17) and  
3 2092(A)(3) and R.S. 36:308(E), relative to a talent accelerator program; to create the  
4 Office of the Louisiana Talent Accelerator within Louisiana Works; to provide for  
5 duties and functions of the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council in conjunction  
6 with the Office of the Louisiana Talent Accelerator; to create the Business  
7 Workforce Committee; to exclude the Office of the Louisiana Talent Accelerator  
8 from the state procurement code; to provide for the purposes and functions of the  
9 Office of the Louisiana Talent Accelerator; and to provide for related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 23:2065(A)(12) through (17) and 2092(A)(3) are hereby enacted to  
12 read as follows:

13 §2065. Council duties and functions

14 A. The council shall do all of the following:

15 \* \* \*

16 (12) Provide oversight to ensure the state's workforce programs and  
17 resources are aligned to meet employer and labor market needs.

18 (13) Work to integrate other state agencies and workforce initiatives into a  
19 coordinated system.



1           E.(1) The Office of the Louisiana Talent Accelerator herein referred to as  
2           "the office" shall perform the functions of the state relating to business-related  
3           workforce services, providing both strategy and coordination of state, regional, and  
4           local workforce service providers across the state. The office shall manage business-  
5           related programs including Business Services, the Incumbent Worker Training  
6           Program, and federal funding related to layoff aversion and response, as well as other  
7           business-related programs and funding administered by Louisiana Works to be  
8           determined at the discretion of the secretary.

9           (2) The office shall perform all of the following functions of the state:

10           (a) Assisting businesses in accessing training resources and identifying  
11           sources of talent from all local and statewide programs.

12           (b) Reviewing and mapping existing workforce programs statewide across  
13           all agencies, schools, postsecondary education, apprenticeships, training programs,  
14           nonprofits, and local and regional partners.

15           (c) Coordinating state agencies to ensure high quality, integrated regional  
16           workforce solutions are provided and taking into account the separate roles and  
17           responsibilities of each agency.

18           (d) Coordinating workforce services on a statewide and regional basis.

19           (e) Managing federal and state workforce development funds to support  
20           business needs in high-demand, high-salary jobs and priority industry sectors.

21           (f) Aligning state and regional workforce development services with state  
22           and regional economic development goals.

23           (g) Building customized workforce solutions for new and existing  
24           companies, in partnership with state departments, educational institutions, and other  
25           governmental and nongovernmental institutions and organizations.

26           (h) Assisting businesses in building talent pipelines through middle school  
27           career exposure, high school internship and apprenticeship, registered  
28           apprenticeship, college internships, and pre-employment recruitment and training.

29           (i) Developing industry-specific training partnerships.

- 1                   (j) Expanding work-based learning including apprenticeship programs.
- 2                   (k) Promulgating rules and regulations.
- 3                   (l) Providing financial oversight of workforce development programs.
- 4                   (m) Developing operational policies subject to oversight from the secretary  
5 and the Business Workforce Committee.
- 6                   (n) Entering into contracts and agreements.
- 7                   (o) Accepting grants, donations, and other funding resources.
- 8                   (p) Coordinating with economic development organizations, agencies, and  
9 education providers.
- 10                  (q) Providing regular workforce development reports including performance  
11 data and economic impact analysis.
- 12                  (r) Entering into non-disclosure agreements when it involves proprietary or  
13 confidential information related to economic development projects.
- 14                  (s) Linking talent development to business recruitment, retention, and  
15 expansion.

Section 3. R.S. 39:1554(T) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1554. Application of this Chapter

\* \* \*

T.(1) This Chapter shall not apply to Louisiana Economic Development; however, Louisiana Economic Development shall be required to continue as a LaGov agency and shall adopt procurement provisions pursuant to rules adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. The rules created by Louisiana Economic Development pursuant to this Subsection shall be subject to the approval of the commissioner of administration before they are sent to committees required for review of agency rules in R.S. 49:966(B)(1). In addition, the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance shall also have authority for review of agency rules as provided in R.S. 49:950 et seq.

(2) At the discretion of the secretary of Louisiana Works, this Chapter shall not apply to the Office of the Louisiana Talent Accelerator within Louisiana Works;



- (4) Ensure cooperation among agencies engaged in workforce training.
- (5) Through the Business Workforce Committee, recommend performance metrics for the Office of the La. Talent Accelerator (office).
- (6) Ensure that outcomes are result-oriented and tied to employer needs.

Present law provides a list of standing committees within the council.

Proposed law adds the Business Workforce Committee as a committee of the council.

Proposed law provides that the Business Workforce Committee shall be composed of seven members with a majority of the members being business representatives.

Proposed law requires the Business Workforce Committee to perform all of the following duties:

- (1) Serve as the advisory committee to the office.
- (2) Provide input on the office's annual plan of work.
- (3) Recommend candidates for the assistant secretary position within the office to the secretary of La. Works.
- (4) Recommend performance metrics for the assistant secretary.
- (5) Report annually to the council on the office's results.

Proposed law provides for the functions of the office.

Proposed law provides that the office shall be exempted from the La. Procurement Code; however, the office shall be required to continue as an office and allowed to adopt procurement provisions in accordance with present law (R.S. 49:950 et seq.)

Proposed law requires any rules created by the office to be subject to approval by the commissioner of administration before being sent to committees as required by present law (R.S. 49:966(B)(1)).

Proposed law provides that the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance shall have the authority to review any rules in accordance with present law (R.S. 49:950 et seq.)

(Amends R.S. 39:1554(T); Adds R.S. 23:2065(A)(12)-(17) and 2092(A)(3) and R.S. 36:308(E))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations to the original bill:

- 1. Rename the office of the talent accelerator to the Office of the La. Talent Accelerator.
- 2. Add the function of requiring the office to manage certain business-related programs and funding administered by La. Works based upon the secretary of La. Works' discretion.
- 3. Make technical and title changes.