

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 37

BY REPRESENTATIVE CONNICK AND SENATORS APPEL, CORTEZ, MARTINY,
MIZELL, AND THOMPSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Economic Development to develop and improve trade relations with Cuba, to conduct a study analyzing economic opportunities relative to Cuba, and to make a report of the findings of the study.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana clearly recognizes the current financial climate in the state and the immediate need to develop and foster all beneficial economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the international commercial market routinely changes in conjunction with economic globalization, evolutions in technology, and perpetual legal and political factors; it is necessary to explore and cultivate international economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, global production and distribution channels are of utmost importance to consumers and producers in addition to state and national economies; and

WHEREAS, the United States has recently taken steps to rebuild trade relations with Cuba by addressing long-standing regulations and restrictions imposed on Cuban trade, travel and carrier services, telecommunications, and financial industries; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has historically been one of Cuba's most important and influential trade partners; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is less than seven hundred miles from Cuba making it closer in distance than many of the state's existing domestic trade partners; and

WHEREAS, ports are crucial nodes in global supply chains, and the port system in Louisiana is the largest in the western hemisphere and one of the largest in the world and should be utilized in a manner that will produce maximum economic advantage for the state and its citizens.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Economic Development to do the following:

(1) Develop and improve trade relations with Cuba to the extent the authority of the department is not restricted by state or federal law.

(2) Conduct a study analyzing all current and future opportunities to establish Louisiana as the predominant trade partner with Cuba in our region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request that the Department of Economic Development make a written report of the findings of the study and submit the report to the House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs no later than February 1, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Economic Development and the Executive Director of International Commerce.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE