

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 71

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUVAL AND SENATOR LAFLEUR

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate May 18, 2017, as CODOFIL Day at the state capitol.

WHEREAS, the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) was created in 1968 to oversee the development and expansion of the state's economic development and tourism activities designed to promote Louisiana's native francophone culture, heritage, and language; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana brand is greatly enhanced by its Louisiana French and Creole culture, heritage, and languages; and

WHEREAS, the efforts to sustain this brand and assure its vibrancy for future economic growth are predicated on a robust bilingual educational system and continued relations with Louisiana's international partners, France, Belgium, and Quebec; and

WHEREAS, CODOFIL has had a long-standing relationship with Quebec, and recently the Louisiana state legislature and the Quebec Parliament entered into a bilateral agreement with the mission to "establish a forum to enhance dialogue and reinforce the bonds of friendship between the parties"; and

WHEREAS, this agreement resulted in the creation of a Louisiana-Quebec Cooperation Conference, which is authorized to propose "initiatives or measures to develop a policy of cooperation, within the limits of the parties' respective jurisdictions"; and

WHEREAS, the first such conference was held in Baton Rouge in 2016 and the second conference will be held in Quebec in 2017, where dialogue will focus on cooperative endeavors of mutual interest, such as tourism, education, energy, economic development, and cultural affairs; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana currently educates four thousand five hundred students in French immersion programs, thus developing a bilingual workforce; and

WHEREAS, CODIFIL's challenge is to build the infrastructure that will support economic activity between this growing workforce and the province of Quebec, a leader in 21st century international innovation and a key economic driver of our North American francophone family; and

WHEREAS, CODOFIL, as Louisiana's state agency for francophone affairs, continues to nurture and grow international partnerships similar to the one with Quebec, and these partnerships result in economic growth for Louisiana well beyond the cultural economy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate May 18, 2017, as CODOFIL Day at the state capitol and, together with the fortunate citizens of this state, does hereby recognize the manifold contributions CODOFIL makes to the cultural and economic growth of the great state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Charles Larroque, executive director of CODOFIL; Lieutenant Governor William "Billy" Nungesser; and William Arceneaux, president of CODOFIL.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE