

## HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

**HB 19**

**2020 First Extraordinary Session**

**Pressly**

TAX/TAX REBATES: Extends eligibility requirements for certain industries to participate in the Quality Jobs Program (Item #18)

### Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Limits the retail and hospitality components of the Quality Jobs Program to COVID-19-impacted retail businesses with 50 or fewer employees on the date of the filing of the advance notification.
2. Changes the sunset date for businesses participating in the program from June 30, 2025 to June 30, 2023.
3. Provides that no retail business shall be eligible to *earn* benefits pursuant to the provisions of proposed law after June 30, 2023, rather than being eligible to *receive* benefits after that date.
4. Defines a "COVID-19-impacted retail business" as a for-profit business that had a physical and active operation in La. on March 13, 2020, and ceased operations due to a public health emergency proclamation issued by the governor, mayor, or via executive order or a decrease in customer activity or the inability to retain sufficient staff due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

### Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law establishes the Quality Jobs Program (program) which authorizes eligible businesses to enter into contracts with the Board of Commerce and Industry to receive payroll, sales and use tax, or project facility expense tax rebates in exchange for the creation of certain jobs or promotion of other economic development. Present law provides for eligibility and qualifications for participation in the program.

Present law allows certain employers such as businesses involved in biotechnology, manufacturing, the oil and gas industry, and the maintenance and repair of commercial transport aircraft to participate in the program. Present law further allows employers that are the corporate headquarters of multi-state businesses, businesses that spend more than 50% of their time performing services for an out-of-state parent company, have a certain threshold of out-of-state sales, or are located within a parish identified as being part of the lowest 25% of per capita income to participate in the program.

Proposed law retains present law but expands eligibility for participation in the program to COVID-19-impacted businesses that have no more than 50 employees nationwide including affiliates on the date of the filing of the advance notification and which is assigned a North American Industry Classification Code of 44, 45, 721, or 722 for retailers, hotels, and restaurants. Further requires those COVID-19-impacted businesses to file or enter into an advance notification on or after July 1, 2020, and on or before Dec. 31, 2021, in order to be eligible to participate in the program.

Proposed law defines a "COVID-19-impacted retail business" as a for-profit corporation, a limited liability company, a partnership, or a sole proprietorship that had a physical and active operation in La. on March 13, 2020, and ceased operations due to either one of the governor's public health emergency proclamations or a mayor's proclamation or executive order related to the public health emergency, or a decrease in customer activity or the inability to retain sufficient staff due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Proposed law prohibits COVID-19-impacted retail businesses added by proposed law from participating in and earning benefits from the program after June 30, 2023.

Effective July 1, 2020.

(Amends R.S. 51:2453(2)(c)(i); Adds R.S. 51:2453(2)(b)(ix))