
DIGEST

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HB 642 Reengrossed

2021 Regular Session

Schexnayder

Abstract: Creates funds and programs to administer monies from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Rescue Plan Fund and directs the treasurer to deposit any federal monies allocated to Louisiana pursuant to the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 into the fund, except \$400 million to be paid to the Unemployment Compensation Fund.

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund and directs the treasurer to deposit any federal monies allocated to La. pursuant to the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Proposed law authorizes the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) to appropriate monies from any of the funds created in proposed law and to transfer monies between funds created in proposed law or to any special fund in the state treasury.

Proposed law creates the following funds and directs the treasurer to deposit the following amounts into the funds:

- (1) Louisiana Water Infrastructure Fund - \$300 million
- (2) Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities (GUMBO) Fund - \$90 million
- (3) Louisiana Loggers Relief Fund - \$10 million
- (4) Louisiana Save Our Screens Fund - \$4.5 million
- (5) Louisiana Small Business and Nonprofit Assistance Fund - \$50 million
- (6) Louisiana Port Relief Fund - \$55 million

Louisiana Water Infrastructure Program

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Water Infrastructure Program to provide grants to community water systems and sewer systems. Requires the office of public health to administer the program and

to submit proposed rules for the administration of the program to JLCB within 90 days of the effective date of the bill.

Proposed law establishes a review panel comprised of the office of public health, Dept. of Environmental Quality, office of community development, and the legislative auditor to review and rate applications from local governments and water and sewer systems and make recommendations to JLCB for funding projects.

Proposed law provides requirements for certain information to be included with a local governing authority or system's application and the review panel's recommendations to JLCB.

Proposed law authorizes JLCB to appropriate funds to the system or local governing authority upon approval of the review panel's funding recommendation and prohibits any money from being expended from the Louisiana Water Infrastructure Fund without JLCB approval.

Louisiana Loggers Relief Program

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Loggers Relief Program to provide grants to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses who suffered revenue loss due to COVID-19.

Proposed law establishes the program as a component of the Louisiana Main Street Recovery Program and outlines criteria for program eligibility.

Proposed law limits the grant amount to \$25,000 per eligible business.

Louisiana Save Our Screens Program

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Save Our Screens Program to provide grants to movie theaters in La. who were forced to close or reduce capacity due to COVID-19.

Proposed law establishes the program as a component of the Louisiana Main Street Recovery Program and outlines criteria for program eligibility.

Proposed law limits the grant amount to \$10,000 per movie screen located in La.

Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities (GUMBO) Fund

Proposed law creates the GUMBO Fund to provide grants to help fund broadband access in rural and disadvantaged areas pursuant to the provisions of the Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities program.

Louisiana Small Business and Nonprofit Assistance Program

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Small Business and Nonprofit Assistance Program to provide grants to small businesses and nonprofit organizations in La.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Revenue to administer the program and outlines criteria for program eligibility.

Proposed law limits the grant amount to \$25,000 per eligible business.

Louisiana Port Relief Program

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Port Relief Program to provide grants to La. port authorities that suffered revenue loss or incurred expenses due to COVID-19.

Proposed law establishes the program as a component of the Louisiana Main Street Recovery Program and outlines criteria for program eligibility.

Proposed law directs the treasurer to transfer \$15 million from the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund to the Legislative Capitol Technology Enhancement Fund.

The creation of the GUMBO Fund and transfer of monies into the fund is effective if and when House Bill No. 648 of this 2021 R.S. is enacted and becomes effective.

The remaining provisions of the bill are effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 39:100.44.1, 100.44.2, and 100.51-100.59)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the original bill:

1. Create the Louisiana Rescue Plan Fund, Louisiana Water Infrastructure Fund Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities Fund, Louisiana Loggers Relief Fund, and Louisiana Save Our Screens Fund.
2. Require the transfer of monies into the funds.
3. Establish programs for the administration of the funds.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Create the Louisiana Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund, Louisiana Port Relief Fund, and Louisiana Small Business and Nonprofit Assistance Fund.
2. Require the transfer of monies into the funds.
3. Establish programs for the administration of the funds.

4. Transfer monies from the Louisiana Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund to the Legislative Capitol Technology Enhancement Fund.
5. Authorize the transfer of any funds created pursuant to proposed law to any special fund in the state treasury.