

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 68

BY REPRESENTATIVES WILLARD, DAVIS, FREEMAN, AND ILLG

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Requests that certain federal funds received be deployed by the Louisiana Economic Development Corporation for certain state seed capital programs

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To authorize and request the Louisiana Economic Development Corporation to deploy
3 federal State Small Business Credit Initiative funds from the American Rescue Plan
4 Act of 2021 to provide for improved access to capital for Louisiana small businesses.

5 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council has found
6 that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, small businesses in this state found it difficult to
7 secure the required capital to start a business or grow an early-stage business; and

8 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic caused an unprecedented economic disruption
9 and a financial crisis for many small businesses in our nation and state; and

10 WHEREAS, it is recognized that the needs of small businesses are immediate, and
11 if there is not a timely response, Louisiana risks losing a foundational and essential element
12 of its economy; and

13 WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, \$10 billion in funding was
14 appropriated by congress to the United States Department of the Treasury through the
15 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, for the State Small Business Credit Initiative
16 to provide relief and access to capital to small business owners who are in need and
17 desperate for support for long-term recovery during and after this unprecedented public
18 health and economic crisis; and

19 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Economic Development Corporation, pursuant to R.S.
20 51:2312, has within its duties, powers, and authority to serve as the single review board for

1 certain financial assistance, loans, incentives or inducements, customized workforce training,
2 investment programs, and any related appropriations, grants, or joint ventures administered
3 by the Department of Economic Development; and

4 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Economic Development Corporation is tasked with
5 formulating and implementing policies for the delivery of services to Louisiana businesses,
6 including ensuring that all qualified Louisiana businesses have sufficient access to capital.

7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
8 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request that any federal funds received pursuant to the
9 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, for the State Small Business Credit Initiative
10 be deployed by the Louisiana Economic Development Corporation for certain state seed
11 capital programs to provide for investment capital in order to increase funding and growth
12 for small businesses.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
14 of Louisiana makes the following recommendations for allocation of federal monies to
15 accomplish this goal: an allocation to increase the capital capacity of Louisiana-based
16 for-profit and not-for-profit venture capital funds for the purpose of emphasizing equity
17 funding for small business ventures and startups; an allocation to serve minority, woman,
18 and veteran-owned businesses and small businesses located in Louisiana opportunity zones
19 as designated by 26 U.S.C. 1400Z-1 for the purpose of directing funding to underserved
20 business populations; an allocation for early stage and growth stage companies for the
21 purpose of promoting entrepreneurship and innovation by Louisiana small businesses and
22 startups; and an allocation to enhance state support for technology research and
23 commercialization efforts in Louisiana and further leverage the federal Small Business
24 Innovation Research Program.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
26 board of directors of the Louisiana Economic Development Corporation and the secretary
27 of the Department Economic Development.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 68 Original

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Willard

Requests that any federal funds received pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, for the State Small Business Credit Initiative be deployed by the La. Economic Development Corp. for certain state seed capital programs to provide for investment capital in order to increase funding and growth for small businesses.