

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 642

2021 Regular Session

Schexnayder

FUNDS/FUNDING-GRANTS: Provides for the disbursement of monies received from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

DIGEST

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 \$300 million to be paid to the Unemployment Compensation Fund. Proposed law provides \$190 million for unemployment insurance advances.

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 by approving a budget adjustment.

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

- (1) Louisiana Water Sector 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 Nonprofit Assistance Fund - \$10 million
- (6) Louisiana Port Relief Fund - \$50 million

Louisiana Water Sector Program

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Water Sector Program to provide grants to community water and sewer systems and projects necessitated by storm water. Requires the division of administration to administer the program and to maintain the portal for eligible entities to submit requests.

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

Proposed law establishes the Commission as a ten person entity, with two cochairs, that will develop guidelines for the program review the recommendations of the review panel and decide which entities shall be funded from the program.

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 Nonprofit Assistance Program

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Nonprofit Assistance Program to provide grants to 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 nonprofits.

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 outlines criteria for program eligibility. Requires the division of administration and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to administer the program.

Other Provisions

Proposed law directs the treasurer to transfer \$15 million from the American Rescue Plan 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.

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Tourism Revival Fund, the Louisiana Tourism Industry Revival program, and the Southwest Louisiana Hurricane Recovery Fund.

Allocates \$490 million of the American Rescue Plan funds to be deposited into the Unemployment Compensation Fund of which \$190 million shall be used for payments of federal unemployment insurance advances.

Allocates \$563 million for the Transportation Trust Fund, Construction Subfund for specific projects.

Allocates \$60 million Tourism and Visitor Enterprise funds.

Allocates \$17.5 million for CRT for the marketing program.

Allocates \$15 million for the Capitol Technology Enhancement Fund.

Allocates \$10 million for the Major Events Fund.

Allocates \$5 million for the HERO Fund.

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.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the reengrossed bill

1. Creates the Water Sector Commission with ten members having a quorum of six members and two cochairs one from each chamber.
2. The Commission will develop guidelines for the Water Sector Program.
3. Sets dates for the adoption of guidelines and start-up of Water Sector Program.
4. Creates working panel of the office of facility planning and control, the Department of Environmental Quality, the office of community development, and the office of Public Health.
5. Designates the division of administration as responsible for the portal and administrative responsibilities.
6. Directs Water Sector Commission to develop and direct the working panel of procedures to select and recommend recipients of grants.

7. Establishes criteria for the working panel to consider and establishes time lines and dates for recommendations.
8. Requires working panel to submit recommendations to the Water Sector Commission.
9. The Water Sector Commission shall submit recommendations to JLCB for approval.
10. Grants only occur if JLCB approves.
11. Provides for the option of the Water Sector Commission to recommend no line of credit for projects that receive water grants.
12. Provides for Commission to continue recommendations for grants until funding no longer exists.
13. Creates the Louisiana Tourism Revival Fund, the Louisiana Tourism Industry Revival program, and the Southwest Louisiana Hurricane Recovery Fund.