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2021 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 78

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

SPECIAL DISTRICTS. To authorize and direct the Lafayette Economic Development Authority to develop and implement a comprehensive economic development strategic plan for the northern part of the city of Lafayette.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To authorize and direct the Lafayette Economic Development Authority to develop and
3	implement a comprehensive economic development strategic plan for the northern
4	part of the city of Lafayette.
5	WHEREAS, the parish of Lafayette is set apart by its strategic location, a world-class
6	workforce, a pro business climate, and an unmatched quality of life, which offers the
7	essential elements to ensure the growth and development of its business community; and
8	WHEREAS, these attributes, complemented by a high-tech infrastructure and quality
9	real estate, make the parish of Lafayette a unique place to live, work, play and do business;
10	and
11	WHEREAS, there exists in the city of Lafayette areas which have become slums,
12	blighted, and distressed because of the unsafe, unsanitary, inadequate, or overcrowded
13	condition of the structures therein, or because of inadequate planning for the area; and
14	WHEREAS, the northern part of the city of Lafayette is integral to the overall
15	economic health of the city and parish; however, this area has suffered from decades of
16	disinvestment while other areas of the parish have enjoyed growth from public and private
17	investments; and
18	WHEREAS, in 2008, the Legislature of Louisiana enacted Act 912 of the Regular

Session, which created the "North Lafayette Redevelopment Authority", a political subdivision of the state, to address in part the general and economic welfare of the city through housing, commercial, office, hospitality, recreation, education, infrastructure and utility capacity, manufacturing, industrial, research, retail or other activities which will create or retain jobs, maintain or diversify industry, including new or emerging technologies, or maintain or increase the tax base; and

WHEREAS, since the enactment of Act 912 of the 2008 Regular Session, the
northern part of the city of Lafayette still lacks the redevelopment that Act 912 sought to
address, while other areas of the city and parish continue to show a strong foundation for
growth; and

WHEREAS, one reason the other areas of the city and parish show such a strong
foundation for growth could be attributed to the strategic planning of the Lafayette
Economic Development Authority known as "LEDA"; and

WHEREAS, a political subdivision of the state, with its territorial limits and jurisdiction extending throughout the parish of Lafayette, "LEDA" was originally created in the 1970s as a harbor and terminal district, and became "LEDA" in the 1990s; and

WHEREAS, as written in statute, "LEDA" seeks to foster and support economic and industrial development and education in cooperation with private business enterprises, financial institutions, educational institutions, nonprofit institutions and organizations, state government and political subdivisions of the state, the federal government, and other organizations or persons concerned with research, development, education, commercial application, and economic or industrial development in ways which increase the economic base of the parish and region; and

WHEREAS, "LEDA" has the authority to enter into any cooperative endeavor in the form of economic development assistance between or among the district and the state, any of its local governmental subdivisions, political corporations, or public benefit corporations, the United States or its agencies, or any public or private association, corporation, or individual; and

WHEREAS, "LEDA" has the authority to enter into any cooperative financing for
any method of financing and economic development project between or among the district

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1	and the state, any of its local governmental subdivisions, political corporations, or public
2	benefit corporations, the United States or its agencies, or any public or private association,
3	corporation, or individual; and
4	WHEREAS, "LEDA" has the authority to enter into any cooperative development
5	project between or among the district and the state, any of its local governmental
6	subdivisions, political corporations, or public benefit corporations, the United States or its
7	agencies, or any public or private association, corporation, or individual; and
8	WHEREAS, most of "LEDA's" money comes from a parish-wide property tax that
9	was set by the state legislature and never approved by voters and does not require a vote of
10	the public; and
11	WHEREAS, "LEDA's" most recent financial report shows that at the end of 2019,
12	it had a \$16 million net position; and
13	WHEREAS, although "LEDA" and North Lafayette Redevelopment Authority are
14	located within the boundaries of the parish of Lafayette, the economic development,
15	redevelopment and monies allocated to those respective political subdivisions have not been
16	proportionate; and
17	WHEREAS, other communities across the country have successfully implemented
18	economic development and redevelopment strategies by partnering with local, state, federal,
19	and private entities, including but not limited to Austin, TX; Nashville, TN; Greenville, SC;
20	and Atlanta, GA's Beltline; and
21	WHEREAS, "LEDA" is encouraged to use its authority to enter into any cooperative
22	endeavor, cooperative financing, cooperative development or any other form of cooperative
23	economic development activity in the northern part of the city of Lafayette, given the fact
24	that the parish of Lafayette is able to foster an economy that supports a growing population
25	and diverse industry sectors where a quarter of the local workforce is employed in mining
26	(energy), construction, manufacturing, and information.
27	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
28	authorize and direct the Lafayette Economic Development Authority to develop a
29	comprehensive economic development strategic plan that at a minimum includes the
30	planning elements of SWOT analysis, strategic action plan, an evaluation framework, and

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1	a plan for economic resilience for the northern part of the city of Lafayette.			
2	BE IT	FURTHER RESOLVED that Lafayette Economic Development Authority		
3	assembles a pr	ofessional, highly qualified economic development consulting team, reflecting		
4	diversity, equi	ity, and inclusion for the purpose of assessing the feasability of redeveloping		
5	the northern part of the city of Lafayette.			
6	BE IT	FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan developed by the consulting team shall		
7	address all of the following:			
8	(1)(a)	How many properties are owned by "LEDA" in the parish of Lafayette?		
9	(b)	Identify those properties by address and list the usage of each property.		
10	(2)(a)	How many properties are owned by "LEDA" in the northern part of the city		
11		of Lafayette?		
12	(b)	Identify those properties by address and list the usage of each property.		
13	(3)(a)	How many businesses have been recruited, within the last five years, by		
14		"LEDA" for economic development projects within the parish of Lafayette?		
15	(b)	List the names and purposes of each business.		
16	(c)	How much money was spent on the recruiting of these businesses?		
17	(d)	List the month(s) and year(s) of the recruiting of each business.		
18	(4)(a)	How many businesses have been recruited, within the last five years, by		
19		"LEDA" for economic development projects in the northern part of the city		
20		of Lafayette?		
21	(b)	List the names and purposes of each business.		
22	(c)	How much money was spent on the recruiting of these businesses?		
23	(d)	List the month(s) and year(s) of the recruiting of each business.		
24	(5)(a)	How many businesses are currently being recruited by "LEDA"?		
25	(b)	List the names and purposes of each business.		
26	(c)	What areas of the parish are these businesses being recruited to locate?		
27	(d)	How much money was being spent on the recruitment of theses businesses?		
28	BE IT	FURTHER RESOLVED that the consulting team shall not be required to		
29	provide any c	confidential or sensitive information in the plan submitted pursuant to this		
30	Resolution.			

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the consulting team shall submit the s	the plan
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2 requested by this Resolution no later than December 31, 2021 to the Senate Committee on

3 Local and Municipal Affairs.

- 4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
- 5 Gregg Gothreaux, President and CEO, Lafayette Economic Development Authority.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michael Bell.

SCR 78 Original

DIGEST 2021 Regular Session

Boudreaux

Authorizes and directs the Lafayette Economic Development Authority to develop and implement a comprehensive economic development strategic plan for the northern part of the city of Lafayette.