



1           WHEREAS, as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it is recognized that  
2 businesses have suffered a great economic impact; however, unemployed and partially  
3 employed workers have also suffered a great financial impact; and

4           WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana pays the third lowest average weekly benefit  
5 amounts of any state in the United States; and

6           WHEREAS, as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, unemployed and  
7 partially employed workers have struggled to cover household expenses, such as rent or  
8 mortgage, groceries, and utilities, and attempt to survive on a maximum weekly benefit  
9 amount of two hundred forty-seven dollars; and

10           WHEREAS, an increase in the maximum weekly benefit amount in the state's  
11 unemployment compensation program will not only greatly assist unemployed and partially  
12 employed Louisiana workers, but will have a significant impact on local economies; and

13           WHEREAS, Louisiana Law, R.S. 23:1474, provides that the unemployment trust  
14 fund offers a decrease in the tax rate for employers, a ten percent discount for employers,  
15 and an increase in the unemployment compensation weekly benefit amounts when the trust  
16 fund has reached a specific balance range; and

17           WHEREAS, this statutory provision and others should be examined to determine  
18 practical and feasible ways to replenish the unemployment trust fund and increase the  
19 unemployment compensation maximum weekly benefit amounts for claimants.

20           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
21 continue the Unemployment Compensation and Trust Fund Task Force to study and make  
22 recommendations for replenishing the unemployment trust fund and increasing the  
23 unemployment compensation weekly benefit amount and to submit a written report of its  
24 findings and recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana not later than thirty days prior  
25 to the convening of the 2022 Regular Session.

26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the task force shall continue  
27 to be as provided for in House Concurrent Resolution No. 36 of the 2020 Second  
28 Extraordinary Session of the Legislature of Louisiana as follows:

29           (1)     The president of the Senate or his designee.

30           (2)     The speaker of the House of Representatives or his designee.

- 1           (3)    The secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission or his designee.
- 2           (4)    One representative from the Louisiana AFL-CIO.
- 3           (5)    One representative from the Louisiana Budget Project.
- 4           (6)    One representative from the Workplace Justice Project.
- 5           (7)    One representative from the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.
- 6           (8)    One representative from the National Federation of Independent Business.
- 7           (9)    One representative from Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- 8           (10)   One representative from Louisiana Women Lead.
- 9           (11)   One representative from the Louisiana Community and Technical College
- 10                    System.
- 11           (12)   The Revenue Estimating Conference faculty member with revenue
- 12                    forecasting expertise.
- 13           (13)   One representative from North Louisiana Economic Partnership.

14           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Workforce Commission shall

15 continue to provide staff support as needed by the task force.

16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall continue to meet as

17 frequently as it deems necessary for the timely performance of its duties.

18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall continue to study and make

19 recommendations to matters that include but are not limited to the following:

- 20           (1)    Mechanisms or measures to replenish the unemployment trust fund.
- 21           (2)    Mechanisms or measures to generate at least one billion five hundred million
- 22                    dollars for the unemployment trust fund.
- 23           (3)    The advantages and disadvantages of increasing the weekly benefit amount.
- 24           (4)    Mechanisms or measures to increase the weekly benefit amount.
- 25           (5)    Mechanisms or measures for assisting the unemployed to re-enter the
- 26                    workforce, including training needed to develop new skills required for
- 27                    available jobs.

28           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary

29 of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, the president of the Louisiana Association of

30 Business and Industry, the Louisiana state director of the National Federation of Independent

1 Business, the president of the Louisiana AFL-CIO, the executive director of the Louisiana  
2 Budget Project, the director of the Workplace Justice Project, the president of Greater New  
3 Orleans, Inc., the executive director of Louisiana Women Lead, the president of the  
4 Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and the faculty member serving on  
5 the Revenue Estimating Conference.

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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)]

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2021 Regular Session

Lyons

Continues the Unemployment Compensation and Trust Fund Task Force to study and report its findings and recommendations for replenishing the unemployment trust fund and increasing the unemployment compensation weekly benefit amount to the Legislature of La. not later than 30 days prior to the convening of the 2022 R.S.