SLS 21RS-3630 ORIGINAL

2021 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 207

BY SENATOR WHITE

FISCAL CONTROLS. Authorizes the establishment of a subcommittee of the Committee on Finance to study Louisiana Workforce Commission administration of the federal unemployment compensation program.

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To authorize the establishment of a subcommittee of the Committee on Finance to conduct
3	a study and review of the federal unemployment program administered by the
4	Louisiana Workforce Commission, particularly during the coronavirus pandemic.
5	WHEREAS, the legislative auditor has cited concerns about the administration of the
6	state's unemployment program during the early days of the coronavirus pandemic, including
7	the allocation of federal jobless benefits, state worker overtime, and the ability to securely
8	process billions of federal tax dollars; and
9	WHEREAS, the legislative auditor asserts that Louisiana Workforce Commission
10	(LWC) did not have adequate internal controls and did not comply with requirements of the
11	Unemployment Insurance (UI) federal program; and
12	WHEREAS, the fiscal year overlaps the early onslaught of the coronavirus pandemic
13	and lockdowns between March and June 2020 that put hundreds of thousands of
14	Louisianians out of work during which time, the LWC handed out \$3.7 billion in
15	unemployment benefits to 575,000 individuals; and
16	WHEREAS, in a random sample conducted by the legislative auditor's office of 138
17	individuals to whom \$902,822 were paid in benefits, \$261,063 were questionable as
18	potential identify theft or fraud and in some cases were even backdated related to child care

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WHEREAS, there is a concern that money may be required to be returned from the state for overpayments that could have been avoided or reduced with adequate state controls.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby authorizes the establishment of a subcommittee of the Committee on Finance to conduct a study and review of the federal unemployment program administered by the Louisiana Workforce Commission, particularly during the coronavirus pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman of the Committee on Finance shall appoint the members, as well as the chairman and vice chairman, of the subcommittee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subcommittee shall submit a report, including recommendations for legislation, to the Committee on Finance by January 1, 2022.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

DIGEST 2021 Regular Session

White

Authorizes the establishment of a subcommittee of the Committee on Finance to conduct a study and review of the federal unemployment program administered by the Louisiana Workforce Commission, particularly during the coronavirus pandemic. Requires that the committee chairman appoint the members, as well as the chairman and vice chairman, of the subcommittee. Requires that the subcommittee submit a report to the Committee on Finance by January 1, 2022.