

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.

A RESOLUTION

To authorize 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.

WHEREAS, the legislative auditor has cited concerns about the administration of the state's unemployment program during the early days of the coronavirus pandemic, including the allocation of federal jobless benefits, state worker overtime, and the ability to securely process billions of federal tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, the legislative auditor asserts that Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) did not have adequate internal controls and did not comply with requirements of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) federal program; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal year overlaps the early onslaught of the coronavirus pandemic and lockdowns between March and June 2020 that put hundreds of thousands of Louisianians out of work during which time, the LWC handed out \$3.7 billion in unemployment benefits to 575,000 individuals; and

WHEREAS, in a random sample conducted by the legislative auditor's office of 138 individuals to whom \$902,822 were paid in benefits, \$261,063 were questionable as potential identify theft or fraud and in some cases were even backdated related to child care

