

2022 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY SENATOR CATHEY

RURAL DEVELOPMENT. Requests the Senate and House committees on agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, and rural development to meet and function as a joint committee to study and make recommendations regarding the appropriate level of support to further the missions, goals, and priorities of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center and the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development and the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to meet and function as a joint committee to study and make recommendations regarding the appropriate level of support to further the missions, goals, and priorities of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center and the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

WHEREAS, the agriculture industry is the number one industry in the state of Louisiana, generating an economic impact in excess of twenty-nine billion dollars annually to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center and the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center is to conduct agricultural research, extension, and teaching programs that advance Louisiana's agriculture industry and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center provides research and educational programs for agricultural commodities, agricultural technology, nutrition, and rural development, and develops Louisiana's youth and families through the 4-H program; and

1 WHEREAS, goals of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center include
2 increasing faculty development and competitiveness in obtaining external funding,
3 expanding efforts with commodity groups to meet clientele needs, enhancing partnerships
4 with private industry to develop early stage technology, expanding the multi-parish agent
5 model to meet needs, establishing a medicinal plants research and education initiative,
6 increasing public awareness on the youth development opportunities offered by Louisiana
7 4-H, increasing teaching, research, and outreach in digital agricultural technologies, and
8 increasing community health and nutrition programs; and

9 WHEREAS, the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center
10 conducts agricultural related training for producers to meet their business management
11 needs, provides a robust cooperative extension network for small, disadvantaged, beginning,
12 veteran, women, and underserved farmers and stakeholders, provides opportunities for youth
13 to develop leadership skills through the annual livestock show, hosts multiple educational
14 opportunities including the annual Louisiana Small Farmer Conference, and conducts
15 certification and training programs to enhance the capacity of Louisiana's small farms and
16 businesses; and

17 WHEREAS, goals of the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension
18 Center include increasing resources to meet agricultural land-grant mandates, developing
19 new partnerships, and strengthening existing collaborations with private industry to increase
20 opportunities for growth, enhancing research capabilities in the hemp and medical marijuana
21 programs, and making facility improvements to better serve students and statewide extension
22 programs; and

23 WHEREAS, it should be a priority of the Legislature of Louisiana to understand the
24 current programs and resources of the two AgCenters and address any needs, issues, or
25 obstacles to growth that the institutions might face.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
27 urge and request the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural
28 Development and the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural
29 Development to meet and function as a joint committee to study and make recommendations
30 regarding the appropriate level of support to further the missions, goals, and priorities of the

1 Louisiana State University Agricultural Center and the Southern University Agricultural
2 Research and Extension Center.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairmen of the Senate and House
4 committees on agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, and rural development shall serve as
5 co-chairmen of the joint committee at its initial meeting to be held no later than September
6 30, 2022.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint committee shall solicit information and
8 input from the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center and the Southern University
9 Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint committee shall submit a report of its
11 findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than sixty days prior to the
12 convening of the 2023 Regular Session.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the
14 Louisiana State University Agricultural Center and the Southern University Agricultural
15 Research and Extension Center.

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

SCR 8 Original DIGEST 2022 Regular Session Cathey

Requests the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development and the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to meet and function as a joint committee to study and make recommendations regarding the appropriate level of support to further the missions, goals, and priorities of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center and the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center.