

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 606

BY REPRESENTATIVE GEYMANN

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES: Creates a legislative oversight committee to oversee and set priorities for the expenditure of federal monies received by the state for emergencies and disaster recovery

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part V of Chapter 2 of Title 24 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be  
3 comprised of R.S. 24:141, relative to legislative oversight; to create the Joint  
4 Recovery Oversight Committee; to provide for its membership, powers, duties, and  
5 functions; to require reports by the commissioner of administration and the director  
6 of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to the  
7 joint committee; to provide for related functions and duties of the Joint Legislative  
8 Committee on the Budget; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related  
9 matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. Part V of Chapter 2 of Title 24 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,  
12 comprised of R.S. 24:141, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 PART V. JOINT RECOVERY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

14 §141. Joint Recovery Oversight Committee; membership; powers, functions, duties

15 A.(1) The Joint Recovery Oversight Committee, referred to in this Part as  
16 the "joint committee", is hereby created and shall consist of the following members  
17 of the House of Representatives and of the Senate:

18 (a) Eight members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker  
19 of the House of Representatives in a manner to reflect the makeup of the membership

1 of the House of Representatives, including party affiliation, race, sex, and geography,  
2 to the extent practicable.

3 (b) Eight members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate in  
4 a manner to reflect the makeup of the membership of the Senate, including party  
5 affiliation, race, sex, and geography, to the extent practicable.

6 (2) The chairman and the vice chairman shall be appointed by the speaker  
7 of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate respectively as  
8 provided in the Paragraph. The position of chairman and vice chairman for the joint  
9 committee shall rotate in even-numbered years on the second Monday in January  
10 between the members of the House of Representatives and the members of the  
11 Senate who serve on the committee.

12 B.(1) The joint committee shall monitor, review, and make recommendations  
13 relative to all aspects of the expenditure of any federal monies received by the state  
14 to assist in the recovery from any declared disaster or emergency in the manner  
15 provided in this Section.

16 (2) The joint committee shall:

17 (a) Establish short-term priorities for recovery.

18 (b) Develop long-term plans and priorities for recovery and redevelopment.

19 (c) Recommend priorities and guidelines for funding that is provided or  
20 otherwise made available to the state for recovery and redevelopment efforts and  
21 infrastructure, including but not limited to:

22 (i) Economic and workforce development.

23 (ii) Education.

24 (iii) Healthcare.

25 (iv) Housing.

26 (v) Infrastructure and transportation.

27 (vi) Fiscal stability.

28 C. Each quarter, the joint committee shall submit a written comprehensive  
29 report to each member of the legislature, the governor, the Governor's Office of

1 Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the division of administration, and  
2 the public regarding its activities, priorities, and other recommendations.

3 D.(1) To the fullest extent possible, all expenditures of federal monies  
4 received by the state to assist in the recovery from any declared disaster or  
5 emergency shall be made in accordance with the priorities for recovery established  
6 by the joint committee.

7 (2) Each quarter in the manner determined by the joint committee, the  
8 commissioner of the division of administration and the director of the Governor's  
9 Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness shall provide the joint  
10 committee with a recapitulation of all expenditures of federal monies received by the  
11 state to assist in the recovery from any declared disaster or emergency for the  
12 preceding three-month period.

13 (3) If the joint committee finds that the monies have not been expended in  
14 accordance with the priorities established by the joint committee, the joint committee  
15 shall immediately notify the governor, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security  
16 and Emergency Preparedness, the division of administration, and the Joint  
17 Legislative Committee on the Budget.

18 (4) If the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget receives a notification  
19 pursuant to Paragraph (3) of this Subsection, the Joint Legislative Committee on the  
20 Budget shall meet to consider the information and shall consider the appropriate  
21 action to take against the expending agency, which may include the withdrawal of  
22 any approval to expend further funds, the limitation of the ability to expend further  
23 funds, a limitation on the ability to transfer funds, or other appropriate sanction.

24 E. The joint committee may call upon the staffs of any department, agency,  
25 or official of the state for data and assistance, and all departments, agencies, and  
26 officials shall cooperate with the joint committee. The joint committee may request  
27 and utilize the assistance of any and all private sources.

28 F. The joint committee shall have the power and authority to hold hearings,  
29 compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses, require the production of books  
30 and records, and do all other things necessary to discharge its duties.

1           G. The staff of the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate  
 2           Committee on Finance, the legislative fiscal office, the legislative auditor, and any  
 3           other staff designated by the presiding officers shall provide staff support to the joint  
 4           committee.

5           H. Notwithstanding any provision of law, the provisions of this Section shall  
 6           not apply to any emergency election plan conducted by the secretary of state  
 7           pursuant to R.S. 18:401.3 until ten days following the general election.

8           Section 2.(A) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the  
 9           Senate shall appoint the members of the joint committee established by this Act no later  
 10          than thirty days after the effective date of this Act.

11          (B) A member of the joint committee designated by the speaker of the House of  
 12          Representatives shall serve as the first chair of the joint committee. The chairman shall call  
 13          the first meeting of the joint committee not later than ten days after all of the members are  
 14          appointed.

15          Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
 16          signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 17          by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 18          vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 19          effective on the day following such approval.

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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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HB 606 Engrossed

2022 Regular Session

Geymann

**Abstract:** Establishes the Joint Recovery Oversight Committee to set priorities for and oversee the expenditure of federal monies received by the state for disaster and emergency recovery.

Proposed law provides for the Joint Recovery Oversight Committee, (joint committee) as follows:

- (1) Consists of 16 members, eight members of the House appointed by the speaker and eight members of the Senate appointed by the president, all appointed to reflect the makeup of the membership of the respective house of the legislature, including party affiliation, race, sex, and geography, to the extent practicable.

- (2) Provides the speaker and the president appoint a chairman and a vice chairman and that those positions rotate in even-numbered years.

Proposed law provides that powers, functions, and duties of the joint committee include to:

- (1) Monitor, review, and make recommendations relative to all aspects of the expenditure of any federal monies received by the state to assist in the recovery from any declared disaster or emergency.
- (2) Establish short-term priorities for recovery, develop long-term plans, and priorities for recovery and redevelopment, and recommend priorities and guidelines for funding made available to the state for recovery and redevelopment efforts and infrastructure.
- (3) Submit a comprehensive report to the legislature, the governor, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), the division of administration, and the public each quarter.

Proposed law requires that, to the fullest extent possible, all expenditures of federal monies received by the state to assist in the recovery from any declared disaster or emergency shall be made in accordance with the priorities for recovery established by the joint committee. Requires, each quarter, the commissioner of administration and the director of the GOHSEP to provide the joint committee with a recapitulation of all expenditures of federal monies received by the state to assist in the recovery from any declared disaster or emergency for the preceding three-month period. Requires the joint committee to notify the governor, GOHSEP, the division of administration, and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) if it finds that monies have not been expended in accordance with its priorities. Requires JLCB to meet and consider the appropriate action to take against the expending agency, which may include the withdrawal of any approval to expend further funds, the limitation of the ability to expend further funds, a limitation on the ability to transfer funds, or other appropriate sanction.

Proposed law provides for legislative staffing of the joint committee and provides that the joint committee may call upon the staffs of any department, agency, or official of the state for data and assistance, and all departments, agencies, and officials shall cooperate with the joint committee. The joint committee may request and utilize the assistance of any and all private sources. Specifies that it has the power and authority to hold hearings, compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses, require the production of books and records, and do all other things necessary to discharge its duties.

Proposed law provides for the appointment of members no later than 30 days after effective date of proposed law and provides for the calling of the first meeting no later than 10 days after the members are appointed.

Proposed law exempts elections conducted under an emergency election plan from proposed law until after the general election.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 24:141)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill:

1. Provide for appointment, rather than election, of the chairman and the vice chairman of the joint committee.
2. Add exemption from proposed law for emergency elections.