
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)]

HB 606 Reengrossed

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 from among the members of the joint committee and that those appointments 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 prohibits the joint committee from impairing or interfering with an election being conducted pursuant to present law regarding emergency election plans. Provides that the Dept. of State shall not be required to report thereon for the purposes of proposed law until at least 10 days after the date of 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.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Specify that the chairman and the vice chairman are selected from members of the joint committee.
2. Add prohibition of impairing or interfering with an election being conducted pursuant to present law regarding emergency election plans.