

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 127

BY REPRESENTATIVE MAGEE

ENERGY: Urges and requests the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, in consultation with the Louisiana Workforce Commission, to evaluate the state's readiness for attracting offshore wind energy supply chain industries to the state

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Economic Development, in consultation with the

3 Louisiana Workforce Commission, to evaluate the state's business advantages,

4 economic climate, and workforce readiness to compete in attracting offshore wind

5 energy supply chain industries to the state and to report their findings no later than

6 February 1, 2024.

7 WHEREAS, some estimates indicate that America's offshore wind industry presents

8 a one hundred nine billion dollar revenue opportunity to businesses in the offshore wind

9 supply chain over the next ten years; and

10 WHEREAS, recent Bureau of Ocean Energy Management lease auctions in federal

11 waters off four states have cumulatively generated almost five billion five hundred million

12 dollars in revenue, demonstrating the private sector's commitment to developing this new

13 energy resource; and

14 WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is planning lease sales in the

15 Gulf of Mexico, including off Lake Charles, and the Louisiana Legislature has previously

16 expanded the size of wind leases in state waters; and

17 WHEREAS, multiple industrial-scale offshore wind farms are set for construction

18 in United States waters; and

1 WHEREAS, several Louisiana firms have already made critical contributions to
2 America's existing offshore wind facilities and continue to develop critical ship and
3 installation infrastructure; and

4 WHEREAS, Louisiana's leadership in offshore energy production as well as existing
5 maritime trades, workforce, and manufacturing assets give this state a competitive advantage
6 to attract new investment and expand businesses in this emerging sector; and

7 WHEREAS, the enhanced economic activity in the offshore wind supply chain has
8 the potential to generate new jobs, support a skilled workforce, and increase local tax bases
9 throughout the state.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
11 urge and request the Department of Economic Development, in consultation with Louisiana
12 Workforce Commission, to study this state's potential economic and workforce growth
13 opportunities and challenges related to attracting new businesses and assist with the
14 expansion of existing offshore wind supply chain companies.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than February 1, 2024, the Department
16 of Economic Development shall submit to the elected members of the legislature and to the
17 David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library a written report featuring key findings from
18 the study called for in this Resolution and recommendations concerning the means by which
19 this state can enhance its competitive economic advantage in the offshore wind supply chain
20 sector and develop the needed skilled workforce within this state.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study called for in this Resolution may
22 consider and identify:

23 (1) Discrete segments within the offshore supply chain, including advanced
24 manufacturing operations, specialty component manufacturing, seaport network
25 infrastructure, ship building, component assembly, transportation and distribution, and
26 ancillary services for future offshore wind energy projects.

27 (2) For each segment of the offshore wind supply chain, the estimated number
28 and type of current and potential offshore wind supply chain jobs.

1 (3) Potential industry growth and activity in this state's existing seaport network,
2 advanced manufacturing, energy production and management, shipbuilding, and other
3 related industries.

4 (4) The greatest impact investment options to produce the largest net economic
5 output, including identification of the geographic areas and local tax bases most likely to
6 benefit.

7 (5) Necessary upgrades to this state's port infrastructure to accommodate offshore
8 wind installation vessel construction and component assembly.

9 (6) Expected additional contributions to state economic output and potential
10 ancillary economic benefits.

11 (7) Any additional information the Department of Economic Development or
12 consulting agencies identifies as relevant.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report called for in this Resolution may
14 include the following:

15 (1) An analysis of current resources in this state compared to the workforce
16 education, training, development, and recruitment needed to offer a skilled workforce for
17 employers in the offshore wind supply chain industry.

18 (2) An evaluation of the potential benefits of and opportunities to develop
19 private-sector partnerships of offshore wind supply chain industries to support workforce
20 development and training.

21 (3) An assessment of opportunities for partnerships with neighboring states to
22 undertake complementary actions, policies, and investments that will help achieve a
23 domestic supply chain and workforce.

24 (4) Identification of available funding, including from federal programs and
25 resources, to support the recruitment and expansion of offshore wind supply chain
26 companies and related workforce development.

27 (5) Actionable recommendations for this state to recruit new businesses and assist
28 with the expansion of existing, offshore wind supply chain companies.

29 (6) Recommendations for further study, policies, or investments in aspects of the
30 offshore wind energy supply chain.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
2 secretary of the Department of Economic Development and the secretary of the Louisiana
3 Workforce Commission.

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)]

HCR 127 Original

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Urges and requests the Department of Economic Development, in consultation with the Louisiana Workforce Commission, to evaluate the state's business advantages, economic climate, and workforce readiness to compete in attracting offshore wind energy supply chain industries to the state. Requests a report no later than Feb. 1, 2024.