

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 210

BY REPRESENTATIVE KNOX

LABOR: Creates a task force to study and make recommendations on the impact of dollar stores on this state

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create a task force to study and make recommendations on the impact of certain  
3 corporation entities designated as Dollar General, Dollar Tree, and Family Dollar  
4 and to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House of  
5 Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana no later than February 1, 2024.

6 WHEREAS, corporate stores designated as Dollar General, Dollar Tree, and Family  
7 Dollar herein referred to as "dollar stores" are defined as stores between five thousand and  
8 twelve thousand square feet with an average merchandise price point under five dollars; and

9 WHEREAS, dollar stores, which are publicly traded companies that have rapidly  
10 increased over the last decade, have over thirty thousand locations and three hundred  
11 thousand workers nationwide; and

12 WHEREAS, there is collectively one thousand three hundred sixty-eight dollar stores  
13 located in this state, with stores located in nearly every parish; and

14 WHEREAS, in addition to the rapid increase of store locations and employees, dollar  
15 stores have also recorded billions of dollars in profit in recent years; and

16 WHEREAS, dollar stores are becoming an increasingly critical part of the retail  
17 landscape in rural and urban communities, commonly referred to as food deserts which  
18 means that there are fewer retail options providing healthier and nutritional options; and

19 WHEREAS, dollar stores have significant impact on small businesses, grocery  
20 stores, and community identity; and

1           WHEREAS, the starting wage for workers employed by dollar stores in this state is  
2 below ten dollars per hour, and these minimal wages can lead to understaffing; and

3           WHEREAS, as a result of understaffing issues, there is a growing concern about  
4 safety issues; and

5           WHEREAS, Time Magazine published an article in April 2023 titled, "The Problem  
6 With Shopping at Family Dollar and Dollar Tree", and in that article it was reported that the  
7 United States Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
8 (OSHA) "is so frustrated with the persistence of worker safety violations at Dollar Tree and  
9 Dollar General stores that it has started putting out press releases lambasting the stores and  
10 their seeming determination to ignore the things OSHA inspectors repeatedly tell them to  
11 do"; and

12           WHEREAS, according to an article published in April 2023 by the Business and  
13 Learning Resources, OSHA has proposed more than sixteen million dollars in fines against  
14 Dollar General, Inc. and its parent company, Dolgencorp LLC, in addition to placing the  
15 corporation and parent company on its Severe Violator Enforcement Program; and

16           WHEREAS, in spite of these citations and sanctions, dollar stores continue to violate  
17 federal regulations and as such they pose a severe threat to the workers of this state.

18           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
19 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create a task force to study the impact of dollar stores  
20 in this state and to make recommendations for policies that protect customers, workers, and  
21 local economies and to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the  
22 House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana no later than February 1, 2024.

23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the task force shall be as  
24 follows:

- 25           (1)    The secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission or his designee.
- 26           (2)    One representative from the Louisiana AFL-CIO.
- 27           (3)    One representative from the Louisiana Budget Project.
- 28           (4)    One representative from the Workplace Justice Project.
- 29           (5)    One representative from the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.
- 30           (6)    One representative from the National Federation of Independent Business.

1 (7) One representative from Greater New Orleans, Inc.

2 (8) One representative from the Louisiana Retailers Association.

3 (9) One representative from the Louisiana Occupational Safety and Health  
4 Administration.

5 (10) Two representatives from Step Up Louisiana.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Workforce Commission shall  
7 provide staff support as needed by the task force.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall convene its first meeting by  
9 October 1, 2023, and shall meet as frequently as it deems necessary for the timely  
10 performance of its duties.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at the first meeting, the members of the task  
12 force shall elect a chairperson, who shall preside over the task force.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force shall serve without  
14 compensation.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall study and make  
16 recommendations on matters that include but are not limited to the following:

17 (1) The safety conditions, if any, in place for customers, communities, and  
18 workers at dollar stores and how these conditions can be improved.

19 (2) The wages of dollar store workers and what is the impact, if any, that these  
20 wages have on workers based on their geographic location in the state in comparison to  
21 wages at dollar stores outside of this state.

22 (3) The economic impact of dollar stores on existing businesses, the ability for  
23 new businesses to open, and the prevalence of healthy food options.

24 (4) The effectiveness of staffing levels at dollar stores, especially as it relates to  
25 crime and violence.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary  
27 of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, the executive director of the Louisiana Budget  
28 Project, the director of the Workplace Justice Project, the president of the Louisiana AFL-  
29 CIO, the president of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, the state director  
30 of the National Federation of Independent Business, the executive director of the Louisiana

1 Retailers Association, the president of Greater New Orleans, Inc., the state representative  
2 for the Louisiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the co-directors of  
3 Step Up Louisiana.

---

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)]

---

HR 210 Original

2023 Regular Session

Knox

Creates a task force to study and make recommendations on the impact of dollar stores on this state and to submit a written report of its findings to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of La. no later than Feb. 1, 2024.