

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 106

BY SENATOR CARTER

A RESOLUTION

To create a task force to study the utilization of multimodal assets, specifically ports and rails by Louisiana local businesses.

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has an ongoing commitment to the economic support of Louisiana local businesses; and

WHEREAS, it is in the vital interest of the state that local businesses prosper and grow; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Department of Transportation and Development, office of multimodal commerce is "to sustain a safe and reliable multimodal transportation and infrastructure system that enhances mobility and economic opportunity"; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the ports and waterways division is "to continuously improve the maritime transportation infrastructure for freight movement and river cruise industry by nurturing economic development and enhancing quality of life through the implementation of efficient, safe, and seamless multimodal transportation systems in accordance with the Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan"; and

WHEREAS, many state agencies and departments may have a plethora of information that can help local business owners; and

WHEREAS, the department's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program was created with the intention of leveling the playing field for socially and economically disadvantaged individuals wanting to do business with the Department of Transportation and Development on U.S. Department of Transportation federally assisted projects; and

WHEREAS, many growers, manufacturers, fishermen, and other local businesses across the state may not be aware of all the opportunities and programs offered by different state agencies and departments; and

WHEREAS, the office of multimodal commerce is an invaluable resource for the state, specifically ports, waterways, and railways as they relate to local businesses, yet it is incumbent on the business owner to know how to access the resources, information, and opportunities offered by each state entity; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Economic Development offers an array of educational, managerial, and financial programs to assist local business growth and expansion; and

WHEREAS, having a centralized portal or electronic repository tying together resources, information, training, and opportunities from across state and local government that local businesses can access may help improve business outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana citizens should be able to ascertain how Louisiana manufacturers, farmers, fishermen, and other businesses can better utilize Louisiana's port and rail assets, how Louisiana ports can better engage in economic development of local businesses within their jurisdiction and how Louisiana businesses can increase local contracting opportunities with Louisiana's ports and railroads.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create a task force to study the utilization of multimodal assets, specifically Louisiana ports and rails by local businesses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be comprised of the following members:

- (1) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works or his designee.
- (2) Two members from the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, one member representing Senate District 7 and one member representing Senate District 2.
- (3) The commissioner of the office multimodal commerce within the Department of Transportation and Development or his designee.
- (4) The secretary of the Louisiana Economic Development or his designee.
- (5) The commissioner of Division of Administration, office of state procurement or his designee.
- (6) The executive director of the Port Association of Louisiana or his designee.
- (7) The executive director of the New Orleans Board of Trade or his designee.
- (8) The executive director of Louisiana Airport Managers and Associates or his designee.
- (9) The executive director of the Louisiana Motor Transport Association or his

designee.

- (10) The executive director of the Louisiana Railroads Association or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall solicit public input, recommendations, advice, and documents from the following organizations that shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Port of South Louisiana.
- (2) Port of New Orleans.
- (3) Plaquemines Port Harbor Terminal District.
- (4) Port of Lake Charles.
- (5) Port of Greater Baton Rouge.
- (6) St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District.
- (7) Greater Lafourche Port Commission.
- (8) The executive director of the World Trade Center of New Orleans.
- (9) Any and all other entities in which the task force considers necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman of the task force shall be the chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman of the task force may appoint new members to the task force at any time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the total membership shall constitute a quorum of the task force and that any official action shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the names of the members chosen, designated, or elected as provided herein shall be submitted to the chairman of the task force by August 1, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall hold its organizational meeting not later than September 1, 2024, on the call of the chair. At the organizational meeting, the task force shall elect any other officers as it finds necessary and shall adopt rules for its own procedure. The staff for the Senate committee on Transportation, Highways

and Public Works shall be the staff support for the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall prepare and submit an initial written report of its findings to the legislature no later than March 1, 2025 and shall terminate on March 10, 2026.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE