

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 202

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To create and provide for the Task Force on Technology and Research Parks to study and make recommendations on the effectiveness of technology and research parks.

WHEREAS, in the early 80s, the Legislature of Louisiana envisioned research parks to be where technology-based businesses could seek need of capital for pre-start up, startup, survival, the expansion stage, new product development, or similar business purposes that engage in or intend to provide technology-based products or services in information technology, communications, or medical, biomedical, advanced materials, food, environmental, or micro-manufacturing technologies, or those that are determined by the secretary of the Louisiana Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, from that vision, several Louisiana research parks were established around the state, including but not limited to the Louisiana Technology Park, the University of New Orleans Research and Technology Park, the University Research Park in Lafayette, and the InterTech Science Park in Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Technology Park, located in Baton Rouge, serves as a comprehensive catalyst for the internet economy, focused on growing technology-related startup companies, providing high-speed, high-volume commercial data storage and swift, direct internet connectivity; and

WHEREAS, the UNO Research and Technology Park provides the opportunity for commercial and governmental enterprises to avail themselves of the resources of a major research university, including its faculty and students, in a technologically advanced and scenic setting; additionally, UNO offers a wide range of opportunities for academic and scientific collaboration with world-class departments from naval architecture to biotechnology; and

WHEREAS, the University Research Park in Lafayette sits on a 143-acre research

campus that is designed to be a catalyst for innovation and economic development that serves the region, state, and nation; the park includes laboratories; offices and facilities for basic and applied research, testing, and consulting; and specialized facilities such as an immersive visualization complex and a technology incubator; and

WHEREAS, the InterTech Science Park is an 800-acre urban science and technology park located in Shreveport, Louisiana and provides its tenants with access to academic facilities, researcher, core equipment laboratories, animal care, multi-tenant wet lab, and office space, land for building, venture capital, business planning assistance, and financial incentives; and

WHEREAS, since its inception of creating research parks in Louisiana, the legislature has rarely been given information on how effective and beneficial the parks have been to the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish and provide for the Task Force on Technology and Research Parks to study and to propose recommendations together with specific proposals for legislation, on the effectiveness of technology and research parks, by written report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs no later than March 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force should include consideration of the following:

(1) The number of businesses that have utilized the research parks since January 2020.

(2) The amount of funds that have been invested in those businesses.

(3) The number of those businesses that met the requirement of a "disadvantaged business" as defined in R.S. 51:1923.

(4) The number of those businesses that are still operating in Louisiana.

(5) The number of those businesses that are no longer operating in Louisiana.

(6) The names and locations of all other research parks in Louisiana.

(7) The names of the research parks that have been most successful in assisting businesses and the reasoning for their success.

(8) The names of the research parks that have been the least successful in assisting businesses and the reasoning for their struggles.

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

(1) The president of the Senate, or his designee, who shall serve as the chairman of the task force.

(2) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs, or his designee.

(3) The secretary of Louisiana Economic Development, or his designee.

(4) The president of the Louisiana State University System, or his designee.

(5) The president of the Southern University System, or his designee.

(6) The president of the University of Louisiana System, or his designee.

(7) The president of the Louisiana Technical and Community Colleges System, or his designee.

(8) The president of Louisiana Business and Industry, or his designee.

(9) A member of the Louisiana Small Business Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit the names of designees to the task force to the secretary of the Senate no later than August 15, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force shall convene for its first meeting no later than September 15, 2026, at the call of the chairman, and at the first meeting, the members shall elect officers as the task force may deem appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be staffed by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that meetings of the task force shall be subject to the Open Meetings Law, R.S. 42:11 et seq., and records of the task force shall be subject to the Public Records Law, R.S. 44:1 et seq.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on the date of the submission of its report or June 1, 2026, whichever occurs first.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of Louisiana Economic Development, the president of the Louisiana State University System, the president of the Southern University System, the president of the University of Louisiana System, the president of the Louisiana Technical and Community Colleges System, the president of Louisiana Business and Industry, and the Louisiana Small Business Association.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE