

SENATE BILL NO. 384

BY SENATOR HARRIS AND REPRESENTATIVES JACKSON AND MENA

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 38:2211.3, relative to innovation and economic development; to create the
3 Pilot Innovation Hub; to provide for designation of a Pilot Innovation Hub; to
4 provide relative to fostering and testing innovative technologies; to provide for
5 requirements to complete the program; to provide relative to awarding contracts; to
6 provide for public notice; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 38:2211.3 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 **§2211.3. Pilot Innovation Hub; creation; jurisdiction**

10 **A. The governing authority of a parish is hereby authorized to enact a**
11 **resolution designating the parish as a Pilot Innovation Hub.**

12 **B. The Pilot Innovation Hub designation shall permit the validation and**
13 **implementation of innovative technologies to address public challenges,**
14 **stimulate local economic activity, and create job opportunities. Local business**
15 **growth and technology commercialization is hereby recognized as a key**
16 **component to efficiently and safely address public challenges, an essential factor**
17 **in economic development, and a primary contributor to an all-of-government**
18 **approach to driving state economic competitiveness.**

19 **C.(1) Any political subdivision within the jurisdiction designated as a**
20 **Pilot Innovation Hub may do all of the following:**

21 **(a) Establish reasonable procedures governing the competitive selection**
22 **of the pilot innovation contractor.**

23 **(b) Enter into a contractual agreement with the pilot innovation**
24 **contractor for the purposes of directly managing the programming.**

25 **(c) Use public property and resources and align procedures including**
26 **permitting and zoning, to implement programming.**

27 **(2) Pilot innovation contractors, when and if authorized by a political**

1 subdivision with a Pilot Innovation Hub, shall do all of the following:

2 (a) Establish reasonable procedures governing the competitive selection
3 and vetting of program participants.

4 (b) Develop and implement programming.

5 (c) Define benchmarks and deployment metrics.

6 (d) Implement programming in a manner that does not adversely impact
7 the political subdivision or the health, safety, or welfare of the residents of the
8 parish.

9 D. Successful completion of programming shall be demonstrated by a
10 comprehensive pilot report, compiled by the pilot innovation contractor and
11 delivered to the parish governing authority or political subdivision. The
12 comprehensive pilot report shall:

13 (1) Provide performance data, roadmap for scaled deployment including
14 integration requirements and regulatory considerations.

15 (2) Demonstrate that usage of technology delivers a valid, useful public
16 purpose and address the goals outlined in the agreement.

17 E. Upon successful completion of programming through the Pilot
18 Innovation Hub, the parish governing authority or political subdivision may
19 award a sole-source contract to the innovator without competitive bidding,
20 provided both of the following occur:

21 (1) The parish shall give notice to the public of its intended sole-source
22 award and allow a thirty-day protest period.

23 (2) The business has dedicated operations in the state.

24 F. For the purposes of this Section:

25 (1) "Programming" means any activities related to the piloting and
26 validation of technologies intended to address public challenges located within
27 the jurisdictional boundaries of the Pilot Innovation Hub, including but not
28 limited to flooding, water management, subsidence, infrastructure challenges,
29 energy and grid resilience, maritime logistics, coastal restoration, and other
30 issues of significant public concern within the Pilot Innovation Hub.

1 (2) "Pilot innovation contractor" means an established business,
2 nongovernmental organization, or venture platform with demonstrated
3 experience in developing and managing pilot designed programs to validate
4 start-up technologies.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____