

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 112

BY REPRESENTATIVES LACOMBE, COX, AND NEWELL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create a task force to study and make recommendations to determine whether designating a certain percentage of man-hours in any apprenticeable occupation to registered apprentices for certain construction and capital projects would be beneficial for this state.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Workforce Commission utilizes the Registered Apprenticeship program, which is a federally regulated program, to connect individuals seeking to acquire new skills and employment with employers seeking qualified job applicants; and

WHEREAS, the Registered Apprenticeship program, herein referred to as "the program", has recognized partnerships with various businesses, employer and industry associations, labor management organizations, state and local workforce development agencies and programs, two- and four-year colleges that offer associate and bachelor's degrees in conjunction with apprenticeship certificates, community leaders and economic development organizations, and even the United States military; and

WHEREAS, the program is beneficial to individuals who seek and elect to participate in this program; and

WHEREAS, the program allows individuals to become apprentices and provides them the opportunity to receive hands-on experience and classroom training in order to ensure that they become proficient in their selected occupations; and

WHEREAS, in addition to receiving transferrable credentials, skills, and knowledge, apprentices also receive payment for participating in the program and their payment increases as their training progresses; and

WHEREAS, not only is the program beneficial to apprentices, it is also beneficial to participating employers as well; and

WHEREAS, the program, which is highly customizable and highly flexible in order to match an employer's specific needs and job requirements, directly pipelines to participating employers a selection of skilled, certified, and trained workers that they can include to their workforce; and

WHEREAS, not only is this program beneficial to workers and employers, it is also beneficial for this state; and

WHEREAS, this program gives this state a more competitive edge, creates a highly skilled and trained workforce, provides employers with ready-to-work and willing-to-work employees, attracts companies who would like to participate in such programs, and increases wages for workers which in turn encourages economic stimulation; and

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 487 of the 2022 Regular Session, which would have required employers who participate in certain economic development programs and receive fiscal benefits for the construction of new facilities or the expansion of existing facilities to designate no less than two percent of man-hours in any apprenticeable occupation to registered apprentices, was not reported from the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations; and

WHEREAS, due to the coronavirus pandemic causing an unexpected shortened and limited legislative regular session, House Bill Nos. 199 and 205 of the 2020 Regular Session, which would have required employers who are awarded a contract by this state to construct a capital project to designate no less than two percent of man-hours in any apprenticeable occupation to registered apprentices, did not have hearings in the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations; and

WHEREAS, it would be a great disservice to the workers and employers of this state if this legislature does not consider and include additional ways to further promote and expand the Registered Apprenticeship program by including more job opportunities for registered apprentices and employers to participate in.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish a task force to study and make recommendations to determine whether designating

a certain percentage of man-hours in any apprenticeable occupation to registered apprentices for certain construction and capital projects would be beneficial for this state.

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

- (1) The secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission or his designee.
- (2) One representative from the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.
- (3) One representative from the Louisiana AFL-CIO.
- (4) One representative from the Associated Builders and Contractors of Louisiana.
- (5) One representative from the Louisiana Associated General Contractors.
- (6) The speaker of the House of Representatives or his designee.
- (7) The president of the Senate or his designee.
- (8) The chairman of the House Committee on Commerce or his designee.
- (9) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce or his designee.
- (10) One representative from the Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana not later than February 1, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall do all of the following:

- (1) Assess the current number of registered apprentices within this state.

(2) Assess the current number of businesses and organizations that participate in the Registered Apprenticeship program within this state.

(3) Assess the benefits and drawbacks, if any, to specific employers who would be required to designate a certain percentage of man-hours in any apprenticeable occupation to registered apprentices for certain construction and capital projects.

(4) Recommend legislation and policy changes for the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, the president of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, the president of the Louisiana AFL-CIO, the chairperson of the Associated Builders and Contractors of Louisiana, the system president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and the chief executive officer of the Louisiana Associated General Contractors.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE