

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY SENATOR CARTER AND REPRESENTATIVES ADAMS, BRYANT, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, WILFORD CARTER, CORMIER, COUSSAN, DUPLESSIS, HUGHES, JENKINS, JONES, JORDAN, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MARCELLE, MOORE, NEWELL, PHELPS, PIERRE, SELDERS, STAGNI AND WILLARD

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Workforce Commission to provide literature to the public regarding the requirement of certain employers to provide paid sick time to employees who are unable to work due to the effects of COVID-19.

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Governor John Bel Edwards invoked his authority under the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act, La. R.S. 29:760, et seq., and issued Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020, which declared a statewide public health emergency as a result of the imminent threat posed to Louisiana residents by the outbreak of a respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus known commonly as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the governor issued Proclamation Number 27 JBE 2020, which supplemented the measures taken in the declaration of a public health emergency with additional restrictions in order to further protect the health and safety of the public because of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control suggested aggressive measures for limiting the possible interaction of the public with individuals who are exposed to, or test positive for, the virus; and

WHEREAS, a person who tests positive for COVID-19, a person who is exposed to the virus, a person who is caring for a sick family member, or a person whose child's school or childcare provider is closed due to COVID-19 may not have accumulated sick leave thereby creating an economic hardship for individuals who are required to quarantine for a minimum of fourteen days; and

WHEREAS, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act requires certain employers to provide paid sick time to full-time employees who are unable to work due to the effects of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, such full-time employees are entitled to eighty hours of paid sick time for use if the employee is subject to a governmental quarantine or isolation order, has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine, or if the employee is caring for the employee's child because the child's school or childcare provider is closed; and

WHEREAS, many employers and employees are not aware of this benefit and may report to work even if they have tested positive for the virus or have been exposed to it to avoid termination or loss or reduced wages; and

WHEREAS, failure to publicize this information to Louisiana residents may undo the great progress made to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Workforce Commission to post to its website a summary of the benefits and requirements of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act relating to paid sick time, make the summary available in a format that can be downloaded by employers, employees, and local and state agencies, and provide immediate notice to employers of their obligation to provide conspicuous notice in the workplace of the emergency paid sick time requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES