2020 First Extraordinary Session  
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 47  
BY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

UNEMPLOYMENT COMP: Requests the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations to study increasing unemployment compensation amounts and expanding unemployment compensation eligibility

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations to study the feasibility of increasing unemployment compensation amounts and expanding unemployment compensation eligibility.

WHEREAS, the neighboring states of Texas, Arkansas, Georgia, and Alabama all have a lower cost of living and higher maximum unemployment compensation benefits than the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana pays the third lowest of average weekly benefits amounts of any state in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the average rent price in Louisiana in 2019 was estimated to be over nine hundred dollars, which is difficult to cover with a maximum weekly benefit amount of two hundred forty-seven dollars; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused businesses and operations to either lay off workers or reduce workers' hours; and

WHEREAS, due to layoffs and reductions in work hours, workers are now forced to overcome unprecedented financial burdens and obstacles; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana moved into Phase 2 of reopening on Friday, June 5, 2020; however, some businesses and operations have begun shutting down again due to the rise in the number of COVID-19 diagnoses; and
WHEREAS, an increase in the maximum weekly benefit amount in the state's unemployment compensation program will assist Louisiana unemployed workers in overcoming some of the financial burdens and obstacles continuously caused by the COVID-19 pandemic until they are able to find new employment or return to work on a full-time basis; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana should also expand its unemployment compensation program's eligibility to include those who have historically been denied unemployment compensation benefits, such as workers who are low-income, gig, undocumented, or self-employed; and

WHEREAS, the people of Louisiana must recognize that many of these workers are residents of this state and are valued contributors to the state's workforce and have also been greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program has relieved some of the financial hardships that these workers have faced and will continuously face; and

WHEREAS, when the FPUC program expires, a number of these workers may still not be able to return to work, at all, or on a full-time basis; and

WHEREAS, the state needs to intervene and help alleviate some of the economic strain that its residents continuously face due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations to meet and study the feasibility of increasing unemployment compensation amounts and expanding unemployment compensation eligibility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in carrying out the purposes of this Resolution, the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations shall engage and solicit input, recommendations, and advice from all interested parties and stakeholders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct as many meetings it deems necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise its powers fully and effectively, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this Resolution before it
must submit a report to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana no later
than August 31, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall make a report of its findings
and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, to the House of

DIGEST

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of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute
part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 47 Original 2020 First Extraordinary Session James

Requests the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations to meet and study the
feasibility of increasing unemployment compensation and expanding unemployment
compensation eligibility.

Requires the committee to solicit advice, input, and recommendations from all interested
parties and stakeholders and to make a report of its findings and recommendations, with
suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, to the House of Representatives of the