

**ACT No. 557**

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 788

BY REPRESENTATIVES LEGER, WESLEY BISHOP, STOKES, AND WILLMOTT

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Sections 4 (introductory paragraph), 4D, 4G, 4M, 20A, and 23 and  
3 to enact Section 20F of Act No. 305 of the 1978 Regular Session of the Legislature,  
4 as amended by Act No. 657 of the 1979 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act No.  
5 99 of the 1980 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act No. 9 of the 1980 Second  
6 Extraordinary Session of the Legislature, Act No. 287 of the 1982 Regular Session  
7 of the Legislature, Act No. 572 of the 1984 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act  
8 No. 390 of the 1987 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act No. 43 of the 1992  
9 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act No. 1013 of the 1993 Regular Session of the  
10 Legislature, Act Nos. 13 and 42 of the 1994 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act  
11 Nos. 1174 and 1176 of the 1997 Regular Session of the Legislature, and Act No. 72  
12 of the 2002 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature, all relative to the Ernest  
13 N. Morial-New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority, to grant additional powers to the  
14 authority, to provide for the issuance of bonds and other obligations of the authority  
15 to finance expansion projects; to provide for additional bonding capacity of the  
16 authority; to provide an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

17 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published  
18 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of  
19 Louisiana.

20 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

21 Section 1. Sections 4(introductory paragraph), 4D, 4G, and 4M of Act No. 305 of  
22 the 1978 Regular Session of the Legislature, as amended by Act No. 657 of the 1979 Regular  
23 Session of the Legislature, Act No. 99 of the 1980 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act  
24 No. 9 of the 1980 Second Extraordinary Session of the Legislature, Act No. 287 of the 1982





1 including any assignment thereof, shall be entered into in accordance with the  
2 provisions of R.S. 38:2211.

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4 Section 2. Section 20A of Act No. 305 of the 1978 Regular Session of the  
5 Legislature, as amended by Act No. 657 of the 1979 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act  
6 No. 99 of the 1980 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act No. 9 of the 1980 Second  
7 Extraordinary Session of the Legislature, Act No. 287 of the 1982 Regular Session of the  
8 Legislature, Act No. 572 of the 1984 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act No. 390 of the  
9 1987 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act No. 43 of the 1992 Regular Session of the  
10 Legislature, Act No. 1013 of the 1993 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act Nos. 13 and  
11 42 of the 1994 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act Nos. 1174 and 1176 of the 1997  
12 Regular Session of the Legislature, and Act No. 72 of the 2002 First Extraordinary Session  
13 of the Legislature is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

14 Section 20.A. As used herein, "expansion project" shall mean a project or  
15 projects for the acquisition, construction, installation, and equipping of additions or  
16 improvements to the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center-New Orleans (Convention  
17 Center), including, but not by way of limitation, each of the following:

18 ~~(i) the~~ (1) Phase III Convention Center Expansion Project consisting of a  
19 building attached to the Convention Center containing additional exhibit space,  
20 meeting rooms, ballroom space, a food court, exhibit hall concession stands, food  
21 production facilities, and other structures and facilities functionally related to the  
22 Convention Center and completed in April of 1999, ~~and~~.

23 ~~(ii) the~~ (2) Phase IV Convention Center Expansion Project. The term "Phase  
24 IV Convention Center Expansion Project" shall mean the project to construct a free-  
25 standing building across Henderson Street from the existing Convention Center, on  
26 a site owned by the authority, containing approximately 1,500,000 square feet under  
27 roof including approximately 500,000 square feet of exhibit space, with  
28 accompanying meeting rooms, food service areas, building service areas and other  
29 facilities functionally related thereto. It will be connected to Phase III by a pedestrian  
30 bridge above Henderson.

1           (3) Phase V Convention Center Expansion Project. The term "Phase V  
2           Convention Center Expansion Project" means a project to advance a tourism  
3           development plan for the Convention Center, including enhancements to the facility  
4           and installation of basic infrastructure to facilitate private development including the  
5           private development of lodging facilities on property owned by the Exhibition Hall  
6           Authority, the private component of which may involve a joint project between the  
7           Authority and a private entity and the public component of which is to be developed  
8           and funded in the following four stages in the order and according to the priorities  
9           determined by the Authority:

10           (a) Stage One is to provide infrastructure including but not limited to the  
11           following:

12           (i) Making public infrastructure improvements on Convention Center  
13           Boulevard, from Poydras Street to Orange Street, including utility improvements,  
14           redevelopment of north and south bound traffic lanes, the incorporation of a  
15           landscaped linear park and pedestrian mall, and the relocation, redirection, and  
16           redevelopment of traffic along South Peters Street and Tchoupitoulas Street.

17           (ii) The development of public infrastructure in the area generally bounded  
18           by Henderson Street, Tchoupitoulas Street, Orange Street, and the Mississippi River  
19           flood wall to include the extension of Convention Center Boulevard from Henderson  
20           Street to Orange Street, public utility infrastructure to support anticipated private  
21           development, and any needed soil remediation.

22           (iii) The relocation of existing power lines along Convention Center  
23           Boulevard and the incorporation of a mechanical means of mass transit, such as a  
24           moving sidewalk or a monorail, to transport people along Convention Center  
25           Boulevard, from Poydras Street to Orange Street. Stage One projects shall be  
26           accomplished in a manner which ensures that there is no reduction or impairment of  
27           current vehicular capacity in that area, particularly with respect to any improvements  
28           in the vicinity of Convention Center Boulevard and Poydras and Orange Streets.

29           (b) Stage Two is to make improvements at or on the riverfront to provide the  
30           following:



1 Legislature, Act No. 1013 of the 1993 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act Nos. 13 and  
2 42 of the 1994 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act Nos. 1174 and 1176 of the 1997  
3 Regular Session of the Legislature, and Act No. 72 of the 2002 First Extraordinary Session  
4 of the Legislature is hereby enacted to read as follows:

5 Section 20.

6 \* \* \*

7 F. Without reference to any other provision of the Constitution or of laws of  
8 Louisiana, including the Act, the Authority is authorized from time to time, with the  
9 approval of the State Bond Commission, to issue its negotiable bonds in one or more  
10 series for the purpose of providing funds to finance the Phase V Convention Center  
11 Expansion Project of the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in accordance with the  
12 provisions of Section 21 hereof; said bonds to be payable from all revenues derived  
13 by the Authority as more particularly set forth in the resolution or resolutions  
14 providing for their issuance.

15 Section 4. Section 23 of Act No. 305 of the 1978 Regular Session of the Legislature,  
16 as amended by Act No. 657 of the 1979 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act No. 99 of  
17 the 1980 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act No. 9 of the 1980 Second Extraordinary  
18 Session of the Legislature, Act No. 287 of the 1982 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act  
19 No. 572 of the 1984 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act No. 390 of the 1987 Regular  
20 Session of the Legislature, Act No. 43 of the 1992 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act  
21 No. 1013 of the 1993 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act Nos. 13 and 42 of the 1994  
22 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act Nos. 1174 and 1176 of the 1997 Regular Session of  
23 the Legislature, and Act No. 72 of the 2002 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature  
24 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

25 Section 23. In each fiscal year, after payment of all obligations of the  
26 authority secured by or payable from all or any part of the taxes levied pursuant to  
27 Sections 18 and 19 hereof, the authority shall deposit the balance of such taxes into  
28 a special escrow fund to be used solely to retire said obligations in advance of their  
29 maturities at a price or prices not greater than the applicable redemption price;  
30 provided, however, the provisions of this Section shall be applicable only to

1           outstanding obligations of the authority issued or incurred prior to the effective date  
 2           of this amendment to this Section and shall not be applicable with respect to any  
 3           bonds or other obligations issued or incurred thereafter to pay any costs of the Phase  
 4           III Expansion Project, ~~or the Phase IV Expansion Project,~~ or the Phase V Convention  
 5           Center Expansion Project.

6           Section 5. The legislature hereby specifically declares that this Act in no way and  
 7           to no extent is intended to nor shall it be construed in any manner to impair outstanding  
 8           bonded debt obligations of the authority.

9           Section 6. No provision of this Act shall affect, alter, or diminish the rights, powers,  
 10          and jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans over any  
 11          property it owns, operates, or administers.

12          Section 7. To the extent that the provisions of this Act are inconsistent with any  
 13          provision of statutory law or any special act of the legislature, or any part thereof, the  
 14          provisions of this Act shall prevail.

15          Section 8. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
 16          signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 17          by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 18          vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 19          effective on the day following such approval.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_