

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



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June 29, 2023

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Clay J. Schexnayder
Speaker of the House
Louisiana House of Representatives
Post Office Box 94062
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9062

RECEIVED
JUN 30 2023
Re. 4:44pm
House of Representatives
Clerk's Office

RE: Veto of House Bill 585 of the 2023 Regular Session

Dear Speaker Schexnayder:

Please be advised that I have vetoed House Bill 585 of the Regular Session of 2023.

This bill would have required the state to develop a new “comprehensive strategic plan for economic development,” as well as to create a new council to be staffed by Louisiana Economic Development (“LED”).

Much of what this bill seeks to accomplish is unnecessary and duplicative. This bill would have created the “Council of Economic Prosperity” to dictate and supervise economic policy, including the creation of a strategic master plan for economic development, and performing functions which are already handled by the Louisiana Economic Development Corporation. LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTE 39:31 currently requires LED to produce and publish a 5-year strategic plan, which is revised and updated at least every three years. LED delivers this strategic plan, and any subsequent revisions, to the Commissioner of Administration, the House Committee on Commerce, the Senate Committee on Commerce, the House Fiscal Division, the Senate Fiscal Division, the Legislative Fiscal Office, and the Office of the Legislative Auditor. In total, LED currently conducts 53 annual reports, including 22 LED major reports and 31 reports required by state law, all of which are provided to the legislature and available to the public at <http://www.opportunitylouisiana.gov>.

Finally, to implement the directives of this legislation and to develop a new strategic master plan, the state would have been required to contract with consultants, at a cost to the taxpayers of at least \$1.1 million. The legislature did not appropriate funds to achieve this, thus this would have amounted to an unfunded mandate, requiring Louisiana Economic Development to sacrifice

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already-committed resources for the sake of creating a new, unnecessary set of reports and guidelines. For these reasons, I have vetoed this bill.

Accordingly, House Bill 585 will not become law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bel Edwards". The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops and is positioned over the printed name and title.

John Bel Edwards
Governor

enclosure

cc: Honorable Patrick Page Cortez
Louisiana Senate President