

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 137

BY SENATOR FIELDS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request each state department to request funding, through their annual budget requests for state appropriations or from federal funding sources, available grants, or from any other source, for programs and policies that have been enacted by the legislature and that pertain to agencies in the respective department but that have not been implemented because the legislature has not provided funding and to report on the status of such programs, policies, and funding.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana has enacted numerous innovative programs and policies that have not been implemented by state agencies because the legislature has not provided the required funding; and

WHEREAS, in every regular session, the legislature enacts legislation the effectiveness of which is contingent on funding; during the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature alone, legislative Acts for which effectiveness was contingent on funding included policies as varied as: free school breakfast and lunch, creating an office of port development, compensation of parish boards of election supervisors, health insurance coverage for genetic testing, and foreign language immersion programs; and

WHEREAS, the legislature appropriates funds for many of the programs and policies that it has enacted; and

WHEREAS, the legislature believes that affected agencies should take the initiative to seek funding that would allow for the implementation of previously enacted legislative programs and policies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request each state department to request funding, through their annual budget requests for state appropriations or from federal funding sources, available grants, or from any other source, for programs and policies that have been enacted by the legislature and that pertain to agencies in the respective department but that have not been implemented because the legislature has not provided funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request each state department to report to the legislature, prior to January 1, 2025, on the following with respect to such funding requests:

(1) A descriptive list of the programs and policies that were identified as unfunded pursuant to this Resolution.

(2) The amounts requested to fund those programs and policies for fiscal years 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025.

(3) The amounts appropriated for those programs and policies in each of those fiscal years.

(4) Recommendations regarding the modification or continuation of such programs and policies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary or other chief executive officer of each executive branch department of state government.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE