

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 297

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CONTRACTS: Provides for a "contract limit" for public works projects by the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 38:2212(P)(1)(a) and to enact R.S. 38:2212(C)(5), relative to  
3 contract limitations for public works projects by the Department of Culture,  
4 Recreation and Tourism; to provide for a "contract limit" for public works projects  
5 to be completed by the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism; to remove  
6 the ten-day time frame for a public entity to post notice of a public emergency in its  
7 official journal; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 38:2212(P)(1)(a) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
10 38:2212(C)(5) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §2212. Advertisement and letting to lowest responsible and responsive bidder;  
12 public work; electronic bidding; participation in mentor-protégé program;  
13 exemptions; subpoena

14 \* \* \*

15 C.

16 \* \* \*

17 (5)(a) For public works related to projects to be completed by the  
18 Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, the "contract limit" shall be one  
19 million dollars per project, including labor, materials, and equipment as per the rates  
20 in the latest edition of the Associated Equipment Dealers Rental Rate Book and

1        administrative overhead not to exceed fifteen percent, provided that beginning  
2        February 1, 2026, and annually on February first of each subsequent year, the office  
3        of facility planning and control within the division of administration shall adjust the  
4        "contract limit" by an amount not to exceed the annual percentage increase in the  
5        Consumer Price Index in the preceding year. The office of facility planning and  
6        control within the division of administration shall publish the new contract limit for  
7        public works contracts in the Louisiana Register in January of each year. The  
8        provisions of this Paragraph shall remain effective until December 31, 2029.

9                (b) Contracts for projects with an aggregate estimated cost less than the  
10               contract limit, but in excess of fifty thousand dollars, shall be publicly bid by the  
11               department.

\*   \*   \*

13                P.(1)(a) This Section shall not apply in cases of public emergency where  
14                such emergency has been certified to by the public entity and notice of such public  
15                emergency shall, ~~within ten days thereof,~~ be published in the official journal of the  
16                public entity proposing or declaring such public emergency.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part 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)]

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HB 297 Engrossed

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**Abstract:** Increases the "contract limit" for public works projects undertaken by the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

Present law specifies that in cases of public emergency where such emergency has been certified to a public entity notice of the public emergency must be made within 10 days of being published in the official journal of the public entity proposing or declaring such emergency.

Proposed law removes the 10-day time period in present law for declaring emergency repairs.

Proposed law specifies that for public works projects undertaken by the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism the contract limit is \$1,000,000 per project, including labor, material, and equipment as per the rates in the latest edition of the Assoc. Equipment Dealers Rental Rate Book and administrative overhead not exceed 15%, provided beginning Feb. 1,

2026, and annually on Feb. 1st of each subsequent year, the office of facility planning and control within the division of administration shall adjust the contract limit by an amount not to exceed the annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index in the preceding year. Further specifies the office of facility planning and control within the division of administration shall publish the new contract limit for public works contracts in the La. Register in Jan. of each year. Specifies that proposed law will be effective until Dec. 31, 2029.

Proposed law requires contracts for projects with an aggregate estimated cost less than the contract limit but in excess of \$50,000 be publicly bid by the dept.

(Amends R.S. 38:2212(P)(1)(a); Adds R.S. 38:2212(C)(5))