

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

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 38:2212(C)(1) and (P)(1)(a) are hereby amended and reenacted and
10 R.S. 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.(1) Except as provided in Paragraphs (2), (3), ~~and (4)~~, and (5) of this
16 Subsection, the term "contract limit" as used in this Section shall be equal to the sum
17 of two hundred fifty thousand dollars per project, including labor, materials, and
18 equipment as per the rates in the latest edition of the Associated Equipment Dealers
19 Rental Rate Book and administrative overhead not to exceed fifteen percent,
20 provided that beginning February 1, 2025, and annually on February first of each

1 subsequent year, the office of facility planning and control within the division of
2 administration shall adjust the "contract limit" by an amount not to exceed the annual
3 percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index in the preceding year. The office
4 of facility planning and control within the division of administration shall publish the
5 new contract limit for public works contracts in the Louisiana Register in January of
6 each year.

7 * * *

8 (5) For public works related to projects to be completed by the Department
9 of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, the "contract limit" shall be one million dollars
10 per project, including labor, materials, and equipment as per the rates in the latest
11 edition of the Associated Equipment Dealers Rental Rate Book and administrative
12 overhead not to exceed fifteen percent, provided that beginning February 1, 2026,
13 and annually on February first of each subsequent year, the office of facility planning
14 and control within the division of administration shall adjust the "contract limit" by
15 an amount not to exceed the annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index
16 in the preceding year. The office of facility planning and control within the division
17 of administration shall publish the new contract limit for public works contracts in
18 the Louisiana Register in January of each year. The provisions of this Paragraph
19 shall remain effective until December 31, 2029.

20 * * *

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

25 * * *

26 Section 2. The provisions of this Act increasing the contract limit shall constitute a
27 Pilot Program and shall terminate on August 1, 2029. The Department of Culture,
28 Recreation and Tourism shall present an annual report to the House and Senate
29 transportation committees by August 1st of each year. The report shall provide information

1 pertaining to projects under the new contract limit and shall include, at a minimum, the
2 following:

3 (1) A list of all public works projects contracted under the new contract limit.

4 (2) The amounts of each public works contract that are issued under the new contract
5 limit.

6 (3) The estimated cost savings of public works contracts completed under the new
7 contract limit.

8 (4) The estimated time saved on each public works contract issued under the new
9 contract limit.

10 (5) The estimated additional revenue generated as a result of time saved on public
11 works contracts issued under the new contract limit.

12 (6) Any additional public benefits from the new public works contract limit.

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)]

HB 297 Reengrossed

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Thompson

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.

Specifies that the provisions of proposed law constitute a Pilot Program that terminates on Aug. 1, 2029. Further requires that the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism produce

a report regarding projects under the new contract limit and submit it to the House and Senate transportation committees by Aug. 1st of each year.

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Delete the requirement that projects in excess of \$50,000, but less than \$1 million be publicly bid by the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.
3. Add a requirement that the provisions of proposed law constitute a Pilot Program that terminates on Aug. 1, 2029.
4. Require the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism provide a report pertaining to projects under the new contract limit and submit it to the House and Senate transportation committees by Aug. 1st of each year.