

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 297

2025 Regular Session

Thompson

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

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Removes a provision that would have set the "contract limit" for public works projects completed by the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism at one million dollars per project.
2. Removes a provision that would have based project costs on the rates in the latest edition of the Associated Equipment Dealers Rental Rate Book, with administrative costs to not exceed fifteen percent, beginning in February 1, 2026 and every February 1st thereafter.
3. Removes a provision that would have required the office of facility planning and control to adjust the "contract limit" by an amount not to exceed the annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index in the preceding year.
4. Removes a provision that would have required the office of facility planning and control to publish the new "contract limit" for public works contracts in the Louisiana Register every January.
5. Removes an effectiveness provision that would have specified that proposed law remain effective until December 31, 2029.
6. Adds that minor repairs, renovations, or construction of buildings or other facilities or the purchase of land, buildings, or other facilities undertaken by the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism will not be included in the capital outlay budget if the construction cost or purchase price is less than or equal to one million dollars, subject to the approval of the lieutenant governor.
7. Adds the requirement that the construction cost or purchase price undertaken by the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism be adjusted annually in accordance with the Federal Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, or its successor index, as published every January.
8. Adds that the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism may not incur debt to fund any project that is not included in the capital outlay budget other than a short-term loan, which must not exceed one year.
9. Specifies that any short-term loans must be consistent with present law, must not constitute or create any debt, liability, or loan of the credit or a pledge of the full faith and credit of the state, and will be the sole obligation of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.
10. Makes technical changes.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

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.

Present law specifies that any repairs, renovations, or constructions undertaken by an agency within the present law will not be included in the capital outlay budget, provided that the project does not exceed \$250,000, with the exception of state colleges, universities, higher education facilities, or consortiums.

Proposed law modifies present law to include any repairs, renovations, or constructions of buildings or other facilities undertaken by the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism as an exception.

Proposed law provides that minor repairs, renovations, or construction of buildings or other facilities or the purchase of land, buildings, or other facilities undertaken by the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism will not be included in the capital outlay budget if the construction cost or purchase price is less than or equal to \$1,000,000. Further requires that the construction cost or purchase price be adjusted annually based on the CPI-U as published every Jan. Requires that this determination will be subject to the approval of the lieutenant governor. Specifies that the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism may not incur debt to fund any project that is not included in the capital outlay budget other than a short-term loan, which must not exceed one year. Further specifies that any short-term loans must be consistent with present law and will not constitute or create any debt, liability, or loan of the credit or a pledge of the full faith and credit of the state. Further specifies that any short-term loans will be the sole obligation of the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

Specifies that the provisions of proposed law increasing the contract limit 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(P)(1)(a) and R.S. 39:128(C); Adds R.S. 39:128(F))