

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 249

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

A RESOLUTION

To create a task force to study and recommend policies that promote the development of small modular nuclear reactors in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, data centers are the foundation of both the technology industry and our digital world; and

WHEREAS, data centers are crucial in the development of cloud computing and storage, artificial intelligence and machine learning, cryptocurrency mining, and the growing number of internet-connected devices, which provide greater productivity across all industries and benefits to all Americans and persons worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the tech industry currently contributes approximately three trillion dollars to the United States gross domestic product and five trillion dollars to global gross domestic product, and artificial intelligence technology is projected to further increase global economic growth as much as thirteen trillion dollars over the next ten years; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America is expected to be the fastest-growing market in the world for data center construction; and

WHEREAS, data centers range in electricity consumption from five or ten megawatts for an average data center to as much as two hundred megawatts for a large data center used for artificial intelligence applications; and

WHEREAS, the combined energy needs of American data centers are expected to triple by the year 2030 according to a study by McKinsey and Co.; and

WHEREAS, many localities in the United States have placed moratoriums on, or paused incentives for, construction of new data centers because they lack the energy infrastructure to build them; and

WHEREAS, small modular reactors (SMRs) are a small modular nuclear reactor with a consistent energy capacity of up to three hundred megawatts, enough to power a data center; and

WHEREAS, SMRs do not require the vast area that a traditional nuclear power plant requires and cost far less; and

WHEREAS, SMRs can be transported to and installed onsite at a data center, reducing dependency on the existing power grid; and

WHEREAS, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the United States Department of Energy certified its first SMR design in 2023 and the first reactors are expected to come online around 2030.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby authorize and request the formation of a task force to study and recommend policies that promote the development and construction of SMRs including but not limited to the following:

(1) Removal or adjustment of regulations and zoning restrictions which impede the research, development, siting, and construction of SMRs.

(2) Financial incentives, such as tax credits or grants, for companies to build SMRs.

(3) Workforce development measures, such as educational programs and training initiatives, in partnership with the universities and colleges of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be comprised of representatives from the following specific entities and organizations:

(1) The secretary of Louisiana Economic Development or his designee.

(2) The secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission or his designee.

(3) The secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources or his designee.

(4) The secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality or his designee.

(5) The dean of the College of Engineering at the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College or his designee.

(6) The dean of the College of Sciences and Engineering at the Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College or his designee.

(7) The dean of the College of Engineering & Science at the Louisiana Tech University or his designee.

(8) The dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette or his designee.

(9) The chairman of the Public Service Commission or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall conduct research, gather data, analyze trends, and engage with stakeholders to identify opportunities and challenges to the construction and implementation of SMRs in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman of the task force shall be selected from its membership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Louisiana Economic Development shall provide staff support for the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and all official actions of the task force shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall study and report its recommendations no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the 2026 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit one print copy and one electronic copy of any report produced pursuant to this Resolution to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772 and to the House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of Louisiana Economic Development, the secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, the secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, the dean of the Louisiana State University College of Engineering, the dean of the Southern University College of Sciences and Engineering, and the dean of the College of Engineering & Science at the Louisiana Tech University.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES