

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY SENATOR PRESSLY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Workforce Commission to study and recommend changes to the Incumbent Worker Training Account and funds to improve the delivery of business workforce solutions, as required by Act 330 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature, and to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House and Senate committees on labor and industrial relations by February 1, 2026.

WHEREAS, businesses throughout Louisiana face significant challenges finding workers to meet their business needs, while Louisiana has more open, posted positions than unemployed workers seeking jobs; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana seeks to provide more responsive support to businesses across the state, to address their workforce shortages and meet their talent needs; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has suffered from recent population out-migration, where departing residents cite a lack of job opportunities as one of the main reasons for leaving the state; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature passed Act 330 (Senate Bill 293), during the 2024 Regular Session, charging the Louisiana Workforce Commission with the responsibility of delivering business workforce solutions in coordination with Louisiana Economic Development (LED), the Board of Regents, the Department of Education, and the Louisiana Community and Technical College System; and

WHEREAS, the Incumbent Worker Training Account, established in 1998, has provided options for customized and small business employee training grants, but has not undergone substantial redesign despite evolving workforce needs and growing business demands; and

WHEREAS, further evaluation of the Incumbent Worker Training Program's performance would provide greater clarity and help inform future improvements; and

WHEREAS, other workforce initiatives, such as LED FastStart, utilize alternative models of customized training and may offer useful points of comparison when evaluating and redesigning Louisiana's Incumbent Worker Training Program; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 23:1553(G) directs that the program shall sunset on July 1, 2026, unless it is expressly renewed by the legislature, providing an important opportunity for Louisiana policymakers to reconsider the performance, program design, and outcomes over the next year before that deadline; and

WHEREAS, providing flexible, high-impact workforce solutions to existing businesses is essential for Louisiana's long-term economic development and competitiveness.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Workforce Commission to study the current and future workforce needs of Louisiana businesses and to evaluate the performance, impact, and design of the Incumbent Worker Training Program in relation to those needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study should be informed by input from a broad cross-section of stakeholders, including chambers of commerce, local and regional economic development organizations, labor representatives, business and industry leaders, nonprofit intermediaries, program administrators, and current and past users of the Incumbent Worker Training Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall be conducted in consultation with the entities identified in Act No. 330 of the 2024 Regular Session, including the Workforce Investment Council, the Louisiana Economic Development Partnership Board, the Board of Regents, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and the Department of Education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission shall submit a written report of findings and recommendations, including potential statutory, regulatory, or programmatic changes, to the House and Senate committees on labor and industrial relations by February 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of Louisiana Economic Development, commissioner of the Board of Regents, president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, chair of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the state superintendent of education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES