

# ACT No. 350

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 297

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 38:2212(P)(1)(a) and R.S. 39:128(C) and to enact R.S.  
3 39:128(F), relative to contract limitations for public works and capital outlay projects  
4 by the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism; to remove the ten-day time  
5 frame for a public entity to post notice of a public emergency in its official journal;  
6 and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

10 §2212. Advertisement and letting to lowest responsible and responsive bidder;  
11 public work; electronic bidding; participation in mentor-protégé program;  
12 exemptions; subpoena

13 \* \* \*

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

18 \* \* \*

Section 2. R.S. 39:128(C) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 39:128(F) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

## §128. Exemptions

\* \* \*

C. Except as provided by ~~Subsection~~ Subsections B and F of this Section, repairs, renovations, or construction of buildings or other facilities may be undertaken by an agency without being included in the capital outlay budget, provided that the cost for repairs, renovation, or construction of buildings or other facilities for each individual project does not exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars. For the purpose of this Subsection, "cost" shall not be construed to include design fees or movable equipment.

\* \* \*

F. Minor repairs, renovation, or construction of buildings or other facilities or the purchase of land, buildings, or other facilities when the construction cost or purchase price is less than or equal to one million dollars, adjusted annually in accordance with the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers as published in January of each year, may be undertaken by the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism without being included in the capital outlay budget but shall be subject to the approval of the lieutenant governor. 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 not to exceed one year as provided in this Subsection. Any short-term loan shall be issued in accordance with the provisions of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, and shall not constitute or create any debt, liability, or loan of the credit of or a pledge of the full faith and credit of the state but shall be solely the obligation of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

Section 3. The provisions of this Act increasing the contract limit shall constitute a Pilot Program and shall terminate on August 1, 2029. The Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism shall present an annual report to the House and Senate 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.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_