

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 384

BY SENATOR HARRIS

TECHNOLOGY. Authorizes creation of the Pilot Innovation Hub in certain parishes.
(8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 38:2211.3, relative to innovation and economic development; to create the
3 Pilot Innovation Hub in certain parishes; to provide for designation of a Pilot
4 Innovation Hub; relative to fostering and testing innovative technologies; to provide
5 for requirements to complete the program; to provide for public notice; and to
6 provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 38:2211.3 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 **§2211.3. Pilot Innovation Hub; creation; jurisdiction**

10 **A. The governing authority of any parish having a population of more**
11 **than three hundred fifty thousand and less than four hundred ten thousand**
12 **persons, is authorized to designate the parish as a Pilot Innovation Hub.**

13 **B. The Pilot Innovation Hub is to permit the validation of innovation**
14 **technologies to address public challenges and stimulate local economic activity.**
15 **Local business growth and technology commercialization is hereby recognized**
16 **as a key component to efficiently and safely address public challenges and**
17 **contributes to an all-of-government approach to driving state economic**

1 competitiveness and address budgetary constraints.

2 C. The parishes governing authority is hereby authorized to designate
3 by ordinance or resolution the parish as a Pilot Innovation Hub.

4 D.(1) A Pilot Innovation Hub is authorized to do all of the following:

5 (a) Advance novel technology which effectively and safely delivers
6 solutions to endemic issues faced by parish residents, including but not limited
7 to flooding, water management, subsidence, infrastructure challenges, energy
8 resilience, maritime logistics, and coastal restoration.

9 (b) Enter into a memorandum of understanding with an existing anchor
10 organization based in the parish, provided that the anchor organization has a
11 track record of structuring cross sector programs, developing and managing
12 real-world pilots designed to validate start-up technologies in specific public use
13 cases, and generating data to inform and de-risk procurement decisions to
14 directly manage programming within the Pilot Innovation Hub.

15 (c) In accordance with the memorandum of understanding, utilize public
16 property and associated permitting authorities for the purposes of deploying
17 technologies that solve public sector challenges and demonstrate value for the
18 common good.

19 (2) The existing anchor organization, as provided in the memorandum
20 of understanding, may develop and implement pilot programs that validate
21 technologies using a competitive selection process that is feasible in the
22 operations of the parish or political subdivision. The anchor organization shall
23 work alongside the problem owner, whether the parish or a political
24 subdivision, and participating companies to define deployment metrics to
25 ensure there is a bench mark for success and reported on as outlined in
26 Subsection E of this Section. The organization shall identify a funding source
27 for the pilot program either through public or private funding, and ensure that
28 the product, technology, or process does not have any detrimental effect on the
29 operation.

Proposed law provides that upon successful completion of the pilot program through the Pilot Innovation Hub, the parish governing authority shall award a sole-source contract to the an innovator without competitive bidding, subject to public notice and a 30-day protest period and a requirement that the business maintain dedicated operations in the state.

Proposed law provides that procurement under proposed law shall not include professional services.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 38:2211.3)