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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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SB 384 Engrossed

DIGEST  
2026 Regular Session

Harris

Proposed law authorizes the governing authority of any parish having a population of more than 350,000 and less than 410,000 persons according to latest population census, to designate the parish as a Pilot Innovation Hub.

Proposed law provides that the Pilot Innovation Hub designation permits the validation and implementation of innovative technologies to address public challenges, stimulate local economic activity, and create job opportunities.

Proposed law recognizes local business growth and technology commercialization as a key component of economic development and contributors to statewide economic competitiveness.

Proposed law authorizes any political subdivision within a Pilot Innovation Hub, to establish procedures for competitive selection of a pilot innovation contractor, enter into contracts with a pilot innovation contractor to manage programming, and utilize public property and align permitting and zoning to implement programming.

Proposed law allows pilot innovation contractors to establish competitive selection and vetting procedures for program participants, develop and implement programming, define benchmarks and deployment metrics, and ensure that programming does not adversely impact public health, safety, or welfare.

Proposed law provides that successful completion of programming shall be demonstrated by a comprehensive pilot report that includes performance data and a roadmap for scaled deployment and demonstrates a valid public purpose and achievement of program goals.

Proposed law provides that, upon successful completion of programming, the parish governing authority or political subdivision may award a sole-source contract to the innovator without competitive bidding, subject to public notice and a thirty-day protest period and a requirement that the business maintain operations in the state.

Proposed law defines the terms "programming" and "pilot innovation contractor".

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 38:2211.3)

## Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to the original bill

1. Provide relative to designation as a Pilot Innovation Hub.
2. Expand the authority of local political subdivisions and provides for accountability and reporting requirements.
3. Make implementation of the program discretionary.
4. Define "programming" and "pilot innovation contractor".
5. Make technical changes.