

1 WHEREAS, the H-2A program could account for this domestic labor shortage while
2 not displacing or adversely affecting domestic workers or wages; and

3 WHEREAS, to employ workers under the H-2A program, an employer is required
4 to provide domestic workers, including H-2A workers, with adequate housing,
5 transportation, and meals, and pay wages in accordance with the current Adverse Effect
6 Wage Rate, as determined by the United State Department of Labor; and

7 WHEREAS, despite the seasonality and agricultural nature of Louisiana's crawfish
8 industry, current federal regulations classify job duties involving crawfish processing and
9 related work as nonagricultural, restricting employers to the oversubscribed and highly
10 competitive H-2B Temporary Non-agricultural Workers Program; and

11 WHEREAS, the H-2B program's limited visa cap, unpredictable supplemental visa
12 allotments, and lengthy processing delays have caused severe workforce shortages in
13 Louisiana's crawfish industry, resulting in reduced farm production, limited processing
14 capacity, financial losses, and significant disruptions across the supply chain, largely due to
15 administrative rulemaking regarding visa certifications, job duty classifications, and
16 supplemental visa distributions; and

17 WHEREAS, the H-2A program is specifically designed to meet seasonal agricultural
18 labor needs; and

19 WHEREAS, classifying all job duties performed by a crawfish worker, including but
20 not limited to fishing, baiting, handling, weighing, washing, grading, tagging, cleaning,
21 processing, peeling, packaging, freezing, and preparation of crawfish for sale as agricultural
22 labor would bring federal policy into alignment with the operational reality of crawfish
23 farming and would stabilize the workforce that Louisiana's crawfish industry depends on;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, ensuring an adequate, legal, and dependable labor supply is vital to the
26 survival of Louisiana's crawfish farmers, processors, and associated rural economies.

27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
28 memorialize the United States Congress, the President of the United States, the United States
29 Department of Labor, the United States Department of Homeland Security, and the members
30 of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to take all necessary and appropriate actions to

1 reclassify all job duties of the crawfish industry as agricultural labor services for purposes
2 of the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers Program.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that reclassification should include revisions to
4 federal statutes, regulations, or administrative interpretations, as needed, to ensure that
5 Louisiana crawfish producers and processors will be able to utilize the H-2A program to
6 meet their essential seasonal workforce needs immediately.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the action to reclassify the job duties of the
8 crawfish industry as agricultural labor services be taken expeditiously, with emergency
9 measures implemented to ensure the timely processing of the H-2A visas and to meet the
10 labor demands of the 2026 crawfish season.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the
12 President of the United States, the secretary of the United States Department of Labor, the
13 secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security, the majority and minority
14 leaders of the United States Senate, the speaker and minority leader of the United States
15 House of Representatives, and each member of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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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Memorializes the U.S. Congress, the President of the U.S., the U.S. Dept. of Labor, the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, and the members of the La. congressional delegation to take all necessary and appropriate actions to reclassify all job duties of the crawfish industry as agricultural labor services for purposes of the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers Program.