

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 384

BY SENATOR HARRIS

TECHNOLOGY. Authorizes creation of the Pilot Innovation Hub. (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; to provide for designation of a Pilot Innovation Hub; relative
4 to fostering and testing innovative technologies; to provide for requirements to
5 complete the program; to provide for public notice; and to provide for related
6 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 a parish is hereby authorized to enact a**
11 **resolution designating the parish as a Pilot Innovation Hub.**

12 **B. The Pilot Innovation Hub designation shall permit the validation and**
13 **implementation of innovative technologies to address public challenges,**
14 **stimulate local economic activity, and create job opportunities. Local business**
15 **growth and technology commercialization is hereby recognized as a key**
16 **component to efficiently and safely address public challenges, an essential factor**
17 **in economic development, and a primary contributor to an all-of-government**

1 approach to driving state economic competitiveness.

2 C.(1) Any political subdivision within the jurisdiction designated as a
3 Pilot Innovation Hub may do all of the following:

4 (a) Establish reasonable procedures governing the competitive selection
5 of the pilot innovation contractor.

6 (b) Enter into a contractual agreement with the pilot innovation
7 contractor for the purposes of directly managing the programming.

8 (c) Use public property and resources and align procedures including
9 permitting and zoning, to implement programming.

10 (2) Pilot innovation contractors, when and if authorized by a political
11 subdivision with a Pilot Innovation Hub shall do all of the following:

12 (a) Establish reasonable procedures governing the competitive selection
13 and vetting of program participants.

14 (b) Develop and implement programming.

15 (c) Define benchmarks and deployment metrics.

16 (d) Implement programming in a manner that does not adversely impact
17 the political subdivision or the health, safety, or welfare of the residents of the
18 parish.

19 D. Successful completion of programming shall be demonstrated by a
20 comprehensive pilot report, compiled by the pilot innovation contractor and
21 delivered to the parish governing authority or political subdivision. The
22 comprehensive pilot report shall:

23 (1) Provide performance data, roadmap for scaled deployment including
24 integration requirements and regulatory considerations.

25 (2) Demonstrate that usage of technology delivers a valid, useful public
26 purpose and address the goals outlined in the agreement.

27 E. Upon successful completion of programming through the Pilot
28 Innovation Hub, the parish governing authority or political authority may
29 award a sole-source contract to the innovator without competitive bidding,

1 provided both of the following occur:

2 (1) The parish shall give notice to the public of its intended sole-source
 3 award and allow a thirty day protest period.

4 (2) The business has dedicated operations in the state.

5 F. For the purposes of this Section:

6 (1) "Programming" means any activities related to the piloting and
 7 validation of technologies intended to address public challenges located within
 8 the jurisdictional boundaries of the Pilot Innovation Hub, including but not
 9 limited to flooding, water management, subsidence, infrastructure challenges,
 10 energy and grid resilience, maritime logistics, coastal restoration, and other
 11 issues of significant public concern within the Pilot Innovation Hub.

12 (2) "Pilot innovation contractor" means an established business,
 13 nongovernmental organization, or venture platform with demonstrated
 14 experience in developing and managing pilot designed programs to validate
 15 start-up technologies.

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)]

DIGEST

SB 384 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Harris

Proposed law authorizes the governing authority of any parish to enact a resolution 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.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Removes population threshold limitation to establish a Pilot Innovation Hub and allows the governing authority of any parish to designate itself as a Pilot Innovation Hub.
2. Make technical changes.