



1 not covered under the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers program to add value to its  
2 agricultural production, thereby strengthening food security, which is national security; and

3 WHEREAS, these industries depend heavily on seasonal and labor-intensive work  
4 to maximize the value of perishable goods, particularly during harvest and processing  
5 seasons; and

6 WHEREAS, producers and processors across Louisiana have experienced significant  
7 labor shortages, which threaten production capacity, increase costs, and jeopardize the long-  
8 term viability of these industries; and

9 WHEREAS, the H-2B Temporary Non-agricultural Program was established to allow  
10 employers to hire temporary foreign workers when qualified domestic workers are not  
11 available; and

12 WHEREAS, domestic workers have not demonstrated sufficient demand for these  
13 seasonal employment opportunities, as evidenced by decades of unfilled domestic job  
14 advertisements and placement efforts by horticultural and agricultural sugar, and seafood  
15 processors; and

16 WHEREAS, the administration of these programs at the federal level has proven  
17 slow, complex, and often incompatible with the timing and operational realities of  
18 Louisiana's seafood harvesting and processing seasons, sugar processing demands,  
19 horticultural production cycles, and other perishable agricultural goods; and

20 WHEREAS, allowing a state-administered pilot program would enable Louisiana to  
21 streamline seasonal migratory workforce access while maintaining federal labor protections  
22 and oversight; and

23 WHEREAS, Louisiana possesses institutional knowledge, regulatory capacity, and  
24 workforce development infrastructure necessary to responsibly administer such a program;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS, establishing a pilot program in Louisiana would provide the federal  
27 government with valuable data and a tested framework that could serve as a national model  
28 for improving seasonal workforce programs across the United States.

29 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
30 urge and request the United States Congress, the United States Department of Labor, and the

1 United States Department of Homeland Security to authorize the state of Louisiana to  
2 establish a pilot program allowing the state to administer and regulate the H-2B temporary  
3 worker visa programs for horticulture and landscaping, sugar processing, and seafood  
4 processing industries.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the pilot program should authorize the state of  
6 Louisiana to coordinate seasonal labor for horticultural and agricultural processing, sugar,  
7 and seafood harvesting and processing, including shrimp processing and peeling, crab  
8 processing and picking, oyster processing, alligator processing, and any other seafood  
9 processing not produced in controlled environments deemed farm-raised or aquaculture;  
10 sugar extraction and refinement; landscaping and planting of ornamental crops; and any  
11 other agricultural processing performed off-farm beyond preparation for market not covered  
12 under the H-2A program.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state level management and administration of  
14 workforce programs will more accurately reflect the seasonal labor demands unique to  
15 Louisiana, while also demonstrating the availability of United States workers and providing  
16 stronger protections for the state's domestic workforce.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state of Louisiana pledges its commitment  
18 to streamline worker certification and placement processes, align workforce availability with  
19 Louisiana's unique harvesting and processing seasons, ensure compliance with federal labor  
20 standards and worker protections, and collect and report data to federal agencies to evaluate  
21 program effectiveness.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Legislature expresses its intent  
23 that this pilot program serve as a national model for improving the administration and  
24 efficiency of seasonal worker visa programs in seafood processing, sugar processing, and  
25 horticultural and agricultural processing industries across the United States.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
27 President of the United States, the speaker of the United States House of Representatives,  
28 the president of the United States Senate, each member of the Louisiana Congressional  
29 Delegation, the secretary of the United States Department of Labor, and the secretary of the  
30 United States Department of Homeland Security.

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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Butler

Urges and requests the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Dept. of Labor, and the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security to authorize La. to establish a pilot program allowing the state to administer and regulate the H-2B temporary worker visa programs for horticulture and landscaping, sugar processing, and seafood processing industries.