

2026 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 136

BY SENATOR HARRIS

ECONOMIC DEVELOP DEPT. Requests Louisiana Economic Development to study and report on the riverfront and adjacent neighborhoods and districts in Orleans Parish.

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request Louisiana Economic Development to study and report on the governance, financing, jurisdiction, duties, coordination, transparency, and public-benefit obligations of boards, commissions, districts, authorities, and related public or quasi-public entities operating on, adjacent to, or materially affecting the riverfront and adjacent neighborhoods and districts in Orleans Parish.

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Riverfront includes public land in Orleans Parish that is historic and is among the most significant public, economic, cultural, historic, transportation, and tourism assets in the state; and

WHEREAS, these public lands preserve historic landscapes and offer abundant tourism and opportunities that draw millions of visitors annually stimulating local and state economies while offering social and recreational opportunities and benefits to residents; and

WHEREAS, there is a need and desire to support efforts to develop, to provide and encourage public access, and to coordinate through responsible and sustainable stewardship of these assets; and

WHEREAS, the riverfront and adjacent neighborhoods and districts in Orleans Parish are supported by multiple boards, commissions, districts, authorities, and related public or quasi-public entities that play integral roles, with differing legal authorities, geographic

1 boundaries, governance structures, revenue streams, operational duties, and public
2 responsibilities that often cross boundary management; and

3 WHEREAS, consultation, coordination, and alignment of the roles and
4 responsibilities between the multiple entities along the riverfront and adjacent
5 neighborhoods and districts in Orleans Parish, is essential to the long term economic vitality
6 of further economic development, tourism and recreation of the riverfront assets, the city of
7 New Orleans, and the state of Louisiana; and

8 WHEREAS, there is an interest in ensuring that the stewardship of public assets
9 along the riverfront and adjacent neighborhoods and districts in Orleans Parish are well
10 maintained, and that public entities collaborate for increased efficiency and transparency
11 ensuring that maintenance and operational cost, public safety, investment in public
12 infrastructure, governance and investment to enhance the economic, cultural, and social
13 vitality of the areas are transparent, efficient, publicly accountable, and structured in a
14 manner that supports sound stewardship of public assets, coordination, cooperation,
15 understanding of capacity, and the delivery of measurable economic and public benefit.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
17 does hereby urge and request Louisiana Economic Development to work with the city of
18 New Orleans, New Orleans & Company, and GNO, Inc. to study and report on the
19 governance, jurisdiction, duties, coordination, public-benefit obligations of boards,
20 commissions, districts, authorities, and related public or quasi-public entities operating on,
21 adjacent to, or materially affecting the riverfront in Orleans Parish.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include but not be limited to the
23 following:

24 (1) An inventory of boards, commissions, districts, authorities, public benefit entities,
25 nonprofit public instrumentalities, special taxing districts, and other public or quasi-public
26 bodies with jurisdiction, authority, operational responsibility, ownership, management
27 responsibility, taxing authority, financing authority, leasing authority, maintenance duties,
28 programming responsibilities, or other material influence over property, facilities,
29 improvements, operations, public access, or development on, adjacent to, or materially
30 affecting the riverfront in Orleans Parish.

1 (2) Identification of the legal basis for each entity, including constitutional, statutory,
2 charter, ordinance, contractual, cooperative endeavor, intergovernmental, or other authority.

3 (3) Identification of the geographic boundaries, service areas, or functional
4 jurisdiction of each entity.

5 (4) Identification of the governing structure of each entity, including board
6 composition, appointing authority, reporting obligations, and lines of oversight or
7 accountability.

8 (5) Identification of the assets, facilities, public spaces, improvements, leases, or
9 projects under the authority, ownership, management, control, or material influence of each
10 entity and revenues and financing mechanisms associated with each entity.

11 (6) Evaluation of opportunities to improve coordination, alignment of
12 responsibilities, and clarity of roles among entities, including where multiple entities may
13 operate within the same geography or serve related public purposes.

14 (7) Evaluation of whether public obligations are clearly assigned, including
15 obligations related to public access, maintenance, capital improvements, infrastructure
16 coordination, redevelopment, economic development, neighborhood impacts, public safety,
17 and whether the relationship between basic municipal services and enhanced services is
18 clearly defined and effectively coordinated.

19 (8) Evaluation of land management practices, roles, and responsibilities and
20 coordination across entities and whether existing revenues and responsibilities are aligned
21 for sustainable stewardship of the area, aligned to further leverage and attract private
22 investment for improving and expanding public access and economic development in the
23 area.

24 (9) Identification of any entity, agreement, or financing structure for which enhanced
25 coordination, reporting, or potential statutory or administrative adjustments may be
26 beneficial.

27 (10) Recommendations for any legislation, local ordinances, cooperative endeavor
28 agreements, memoranda of understanding, governance protocols, to improve delivery,
29 efficiency, coordination, fiscal accountability, and public-benefit alignment, including
30 clarifying and strengthening the alignment between basic municipal services and enhanced

