

2018 Third Extraordinary Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 27

BY SENATOR BARROW

TAX/TAXATION. Requests study of tax structure and policy in Louisiana.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs to study
3 Louisiana's tax structure and policy and to make recommendations for changes to the
4 state's tax laws in an effort to modernize and enhance the efficiency and fairness of
5 the state's tax policies for individuals and businesses.

6 WHEREAS, the citizens of the state of Louisiana expect and deserve a stable and
7 effective government that meets the needs of citizens through high-quality programs and
8 efficient services; and

9 WHEREAS, the state government of Louisiana has faced deficits annually since
10 Fiscal Year 2008-2009; and

11 WHEREAS, the state general fund expenditures of state government are projected
12 to continue to grow in the five-year continuation baseline projection, and state revenues are
13 not projected to meet those expenditures; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2015, the legislature commissioned a tax study to provide the
15 legislature with alternatives for a tax structure with predictable and stable revenues that
16 promotes competitiveness and is fair and simple; and

17 WHEREAS, the Task Force on Structural Changes in Budget and Tax Policy created
18 by House Concurrent Resolution No. 11 of the 2016 First Extraordinary Session issued its

1 final report on January 27, 2017, which included recommendations for changes in tax
2 structure and policy; and

3 WHEREAS, the United State Supreme Court has recently determined that the
4 imposition of taxes upon sales by certain remote sellers by a state when the seller is not
5 located within the state is constitutional, provided the state's laws and regulations do not
6 discriminate against interstate commerce and the state does not impose undue burdens on
7 interstate commerce; and

8 WHEREAS, the legislature has the authority to make and change the laws of the state
9 and to establish a more stable, fair, and simple tax code in order to stabilize the budget for
10 future years; and

11 WHEREAS, a thorough review of Louisiana's tax structure and policy is needed,
12 particularly considering the final report of the Task Force on Structural Changes in Budget
13 and Tax Policy, recent legislative efforts in this area, changes in federal tax law, and
14 decisions of the United States Supreme Court regarding the constitutionality of imposing
15 sales tax on remote sellers.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Louisiana Legislature does
17 hereby urge and request the Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs to study
18 Louisiana's tax structure and policy and to make recommendations of changes to the state's
19 tax laws in an effort to modernize and enhance the efficiency and fairness of the state's tax
20 policies for individuals and businesses taking into consideration all options and alternatives
21 available.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall evaluate and recommend
23 changes to the state's tax structure and policy, including but not limited to:

- 24 (1) Personal income tax.
- 25 (2) Corporate income tax.
- 26 (3) Property tax.
- 27 (4) Sales tax.
- 28 (5) Severance tax.
- 29 (6) Tax expenditures, including deductions, credits, exemptions, and rebates.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall make a written report of its

1 findings to the Senate on or before February 1, 2019, together with any specific proposals
2 for legislation.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

DIGEST

SR 27 Original

2018 Third Extraordinary Session

Barrow

Requests the Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs to study Louisiana's tax structure and policy and to make recommendations for changes to the state's tax laws in an effort to modernize and enhance the efficiency and fairness of the state's tax policies for individuals and businesses. Requires a written report of its findings to the Senate on or before February 1, 2019.