

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY REPRESENTATIVE MAGEE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request that the Louisiana Division of Administration, office of community development, immediately disburse federal funds for project applications in round one of the Watershed Projects Grant Program to aid in Louisiana's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHEREAS, following the 2016 floods, several state agencies worked to develop the Louisiana Watershed Initiative to study and implement policy changes and construct infrastructure projects that will protect against future flood related devastation; and

WHEREAS, in April 2018, Governor Edwards announced the federal government's allocation of \$1.21 billion in Community Development Block Grant funding for mitigation for the Louisiana Watershed Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Watershed Initiative provides for three local and regional funding rounds totaling over \$570 million within its Watershed Projects Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the office of community development accepted applications in 2019 for round one totaling \$100 million; and

WHEREAS, the applications submitted to the office of community development in 2019 are for infrastructure projects that will help improve Louisiana's resiliency against major rain events which are certain to continue; and

WHEREAS, the preconstruction and construction phases of infrastructure projects are a time-tested, proven way to sustain and grow the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is currently facing an unprecedented economic crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has resulted in skyrocketing unemployment; and

WHEREAS, government agencies and businesses throughout the state are facing tremendous financial deficits that can only be resolved by putting the people of Louisiana back to work; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's most prominent industries, such as tourism and oil and gas, have been decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic and face a very uncertain future; and

WHEREAS, the office of community development has \$100 million in round one available to immediately begin putting Louisiana citizens to work on infrastructure projects that improve the resilience of the state; and

WHEREAS, government agencies have the ability to act expeditiously in crisis and, to the extent any state law exists that serves as an impediment to immediate disbursement by the office of community development for projects in round one, the House of Representatives is committed to revising such laws as necessary.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request that the Louisiana Division of Administration, office of community development, immediately disburse federal funds for project applications in round one of the Watershed Projects Grant Program to aid in Louisiana's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana House of Representatives urges and requests the office of community development to identify any provisions of state law that may serve as an impediment to the immediate disbursement of round one funding and notify the Louisiana House of Representatives of such impeding provisions of law within seven days of the passage of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Louisiana Division of Administration, office of community development.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES