

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 92

BY REPRESENTATIVES PIERRE, ADAMS, BROWN, BRYANT, BUTLER, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, WILFORD CARTER, CORMIER, DUBUISSON, FREEMAN, HUGHES, ILLG, JEFFERSON, TRAVIS JOHNSON, JONES, JORDAN, LACOMBE, NEWELL, CHARLES OWEN, PHELPS, SELDERS, THOMAS, THOMPSON, AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Community and Technical College System to establish a pilot program to provide for the regional delivery of commercial driver's license training and certification.

WHEREAS, according to data extracted from the Louisiana Workforce Commission's long-term employment projections contained within its occupational forecast, the truck transportation sector is projected to realize significant growth in all regions of the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, this significance is based on regions that are projected to have a ten percent or greater increase from 2016 or are projected to have employment opportunities that exceed one thousand; and

WHEREAS, regional labor market areas one, New Orleans, and three, Houma-Thibodaux, collectively are projected to employ five thousand five hundred seventy-four commercial driver's license holders through the year 2026; and

WHEREAS, regional labor market areas four, Lafayette, five, Lake Charles, and six, Central Louisiana, collectively are projected to employ three thousand forty-nine commercial driver's license holders through the year 2026; and

WHEREAS, regional labor market areas seven, Shreveport-Bossier, and eight, Monroe, collectively are projected to employ four thousand three hundred six commercial driver's license holders through the year 2026; and

WHEREAS, regional labor market area two, Baton Rouge, is projected to employ four thousand eighty-six commercial driver's license holders through the year 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System operates twelve colleges across the state of Louisiana and serves every region of the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System is a collection of institutions of higher education established to provide technical instruction and prepare Louisiana's citizens for improved quality of life, workforce success, and continued learning; and

WHEREAS, the significant cost of establishing a commercial driver's license training program makes it difficult to operate such programs at each individual college; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System currently provides instruction in diesel technology to assist diesel technicians with the operation of maintenance centers for fleet upkeep and preservation; and

WHEREAS, the professional trucking industry reported that the industry continues to struggle with recruiting and retaining a qualified professional workforce; and

WHEREAS, a regional approach will enhance the Louisiana Community and Technical College System's ability to scale up and provide training on a more significant level during the day, evening, and on the weekend which will allow more Louisiana citizens, who desire to earn a short term credential, to earn a salary as a professional truck driver in our state; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of training in these programs would serve to stimulate the economy of the state of Louisiana by certifying additional drivers to transport products to and from the state and technicians to provide maintenance for trucking fleets and provide a response to fulfill the increased need for drivers, which was brought on by COVID-19 and the preexisting driver shortage experienced in the transportation industry.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Community and Technical College System to develop a pilot program in which multiple colleges partner to provide instruction and certification for commercial driving and for diesel technicians through a regional service delivery model that serves the entire state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the scale of the pilot program administered by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System shall be dependent on appropriated funds or funds raised by the colleges.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Community and Technical College System shall submit a written report of its findings regarding the development and implementation of the pilot program, including any recommendations for related legislation, to the Senate and House Committees on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and the Senate and House Committees on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System and the commissioner of higher education.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE