

2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 47

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

UNEMPLOYMENT COMP: Requests the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations to study increasing unemployment compensation amounts and expanding unemployment compensation eligibility

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations to study the
3 feasibility of increasing unemployment compensation amounts and expanding
4 unemployment compensation eligibility.

5 WHEREAS, the neighboring states of Texas, Arkansas, Georgia, and Alabama all
6 have a lower cost of living and higher maximum unemployment compensation benefits than
7 the state of Louisiana; and

8 WHEREAS, Louisiana pays the third lowest of average weekly benefits amounts of
9 any state in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, the average rent price in Louisiana in 2019 was estimated to be over
11 nine hundred dollars, which is difficult to cover with a maximum weekly benefit amount of
12 two hundred forty-seven dollars; and

13 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused businesses and operations to either
14 lay off workers or reduce workers' hours; and

15 WHEREAS, due to layoffs and reductions in work hours, workers are now forced to
16 overcome unprecedented financial burdens and obstacles; and

17 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana moved into Phase 2 of reopening on Friday, June
18 5, 2020; however, some businesses and operations have begun shutting down again due to
19 the rise in the number of COVID-19 diagnoses; and

1 WHEREAS, an increase in the maximum weekly benefit amount in the state's
2 unemployment compensation program will assist Louisiana unemployed workers in
3 overcoming some of the financial burdens and obstacles continuously caused by the COVID-
4 19 pandemic until they are able to find new employment or return to work on a full-time
5 basis; and

6 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana should also expand its unemployment
7 compensation program's eligibility to include those who have historically been denied
8 unemployment compensation benefits, such as workers who are low-income, gig,
9 undocumented, or self-employed; and

10 WHEREAS, the people of Louisiana must recognize that many of these workers are
11 residents of this state and are valued contributors to the state's workforce and have also been
12 greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

13 WHEREAS, the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program
14 has relieved some of the financial hardships that these workers have faced and will
15 continuously face; and

16 WHEREAS, when the FPUC program expires, a number of these workers may still
17 not be able to return to work, at all, or on a full-time basis; and

18 WHEREAS, the state needs to intervene and help alleviate some of the economic
19 strain that its residents continuously face due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
21 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the House Committee on Labor and
22 Industrial Relations to meet and study the feasibility of increasing unemployment
23 compensation amounts and expanding unemployment compensation eligibility.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in carrying out the purposes of this Resolution,
25 the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations shall engage and solicit input,
26 recommendations, and advice from all interested parties and stakeholders.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee may conduct as many meetings
28 it deems necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise its powers fully and effectively,
29 perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this Resolution before it

1 must submit a report to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana no later
2 than August 31, 2020.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall make a report of its findings
4 and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, to the House of
5 Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana no later than August 31, 2020.

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)]

HR 47 Original

2020 First Extraordinary Session

James

Requests the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations to meet and study the feasibility of increasing unemployment compensation and expanding unemployment compensation eligibility.

Requires the committee to solicit advice, input, and recommendations from all interested parties and stakeholders and to make a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of La. no later than Aug. 31, 2020.