

2021 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 53

BY SENATOR TALBOT

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the Louisiana Restaurant Association upon the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Louisiana Restaurant Association on the occasion of its seventy-fifth
3 anniversary.

4 WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the Louisiana Restaurant Association
5 (LRA) on the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary and for its continued service as an
6 advocate for the state's restaurant, bar, catering, and food service industry; and

7 WHEREAS, Louisiana's restaurant industry employs more residents than any other
8 industry and prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 217,000 Louisiana residents were
9 working in more than nine thousand eating and drinking establishments; and

10 WHEREAS, each January, the LRA recognizes its incoming leaders, and in 2021,
11 the association elected Keith Bond as chairman, Michael Boudreaux as vice chairman,
12 Michael Maenza as treasurer, Alan Guilbeau as secretary, and Mark Latter as at-large
13 officer; and

14 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Restaurant Association recognized and extended its
15 sincere appreciation to Peter Sclafani, immediate past chairman, for his leadership during
16 an unprecedented year as the industry faced a multitude of challenges presented by the
17 COVID-19 pandemic; and

18 WHEREAS, the LRA hosted its first trade show in 1953 at the Jung Hotel in New

1 Orleans with presentations on the newest phase of restaurant operation, the "take home"
2 business; and

3 WHEREAS, in 1964, in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Education, the
4 association offered a series of free waitress training courses throughout the state, which
5 included various service skills and techniques; and

6 WHEREAS, in 1982, resulting from a collapse in the workers' compensation market,
7 the Legislature of Louisiana authorized the formation of Association Group Self-Insured
8 Funds to provide an industry-specific solution for restaurants, bars, and hospitality-related
9 businesses; today the Louisiana Restaurant Association's self-insured fund provides coverage
10 for payrolls valued in excess of \$925 million; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1995, the Louisiana Restaurant Association's board of directors, in
12 partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health, developed a plan that requires all retail
13 food establishments to have one manager who has completed food safety and sanitation
14 training; and

15 WHEREAS, the LRA Education Foundation, organized to promote the industry as
16 a career path, administers the ProStart program, a culinary arts and restaurant management
17 curriculum in schools throughout the state, and awards funding through its Scholars Program
18 to qualified students to continue their education; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1997, the Louisiana Restaurant Association's work to expand culinary
20 education in Louisiana was recognized when the Board of Regents approved a Bachelor of
21 Science degree program in culinary arts at Nicholls State University, the first of its kind at
22 a public institution of higher education in the United States; and

23 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Restaurant Association's partnership with the National
24 Restaurant Association provides effective advocacy across federal, state, and local levels in
25 service to its members; and

26 WHEREAS, the LRA has proudly provided leadership to the National Restaurant
27 Association with Ralph Brennan and Melvin Rodrigue serving as chairman in 1995 and
28 2020, respectively; and

29 WHEREAS, during times of crisis in Louisiana, the association quickly centers its
30 focus on advocacy and communication to provide relevant and timely information to its

