

1 WHEREAS, studies show the crawfish industry contributes over three hundred
2 million dollars to the Louisiana economy annually while the green industry contributes over
3 two billion dollars; and

4 WHEREAS, a recent survey by Unleash Prosperity shows that, due to the insufficient
5 number of visas and the processing delays, close to half of seasonal H-2B employers do not
6 expect to be profitable in 2026, including most of our state's crawfish processors and
7 landscapers, making this an urgent threat to the Louisiana economy; and

8 WHEREAS, crawfish production and landscaping in Louisiana is highly seasonal and
9 labor intensive, requiring a reliable and timely workforce during peak harvest and processing
10 periods; and

11 WHEREAS, handling, weighing, washing, grading, processing, peeling, packaging,
12 and freezing of crawfish for sale are fundamentally tied to aquacultural production, forming
13 a continuous chain of timely executed operations essential for moving the product from farm
14 to market; and

15 WHEREAS, due to the temporary and seasonal nature of the crawfish harvest and
16 of the landscaping industry, job postings are often left vacant due to a shortage of readily
17 available, able, willing, and qualified domestic workers; and

18 WHEREAS, both the H-2A program and the Certified Seasonal Employer
19 Designation could account for this domestic labor shortage while not displacing or adversely
20 affecting domestic workers or wages; and

21 WHEREAS, to employ workers under the H-2A program, an employer is required
22 to provide domestic workers, including H-2A workers, with adequate housing,
23 transportation, and meals, and pay wages in accordance with the current Adverse Effect
24 Wage Rate, as determined by the United State Department of Labor; and

25 WHEREAS, the Certified Seasonal Employer Designation requires employers to
26 have participated in the H-2B program for the last five years and have no history of labor
27 violations; and

28 WHEREAS, the Certified Seasonal Employer Designation rewards employers who
29 have a long-standing record of following the United States immigration laws; and

1 WHEREAS, Louisiana’s crawfish and landscaping employers are facing increasing
2 competition from employers entering the H-2B program after previously hiring illegal aliens,
3 with demand for the H-2B program having increased by seventy percent over the past five
4 years and by eight percent year-over-year; and

5 WHEREAS, despite the seasonality and agricultural nature of Louisiana's crawfish
6 industry, current federal regulations classify job duties involving crawfish processing and
7 related work as nonagricultural, restricting employers to the oversubscribed and highly
8 competitive H-2B Temporary Non-agricultural Workers Program; and

9 WHEREAS, the H-2B program's limited visa cap, unpredictable supplemental visa
10 allotments, and lengthy processing delays have caused severe workforce shortages in
11 Louisiana's crawfish and landscaping industries, resulting in limited processing capacity,
12 financial losses, and significant disruptions across the supply chain, largely due to
13 administrative rulemaking regarding visa certifications, job duty classifications, and
14 supplemental visa distributions; and

15 WHEREAS, the H-2A program is specifically designed to meet seasonal agricultural
16 labor needs; and

17 WHEREAS, classifying all job duties performed by a crawfish worker, including but
18 not limited to fishing, baiting, handling, weighing, washing, grading, tagging, cleaning,
19 processing, peeling, packaging, freezing, and preparation of crawfish for sale as agricultural
20 labor would bring federal policy into alignment with the operational reality of crawfish
21 farming and would stabilize the workforce that Louisiana's crawfish industry depends on;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, ensuring an adequate, legal, and dependable labor supply is vital to the
24 survival of Louisiana's crawfish farmers, processors, landscapers, and associated rural
25 economies.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
27 memorialize the United States Congress, the President of the United States, the United States
28 Department of Labor, the United States Department of Homeland Security, and the
29 Louisiana Congressional Delegation to take all necessary and appropriate actions to pass the
30 H-2B Certified Seasonal Employer Designation and reclassify all job duties of the crawfish

1 industry as agricultural labor services for purposes of the H-2A Temporary Agricultural
2 Worker Program.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that reclassification should include revisions to
4 federal statutes, regulations, or administrative interpretations, as needed, to ensure that
5 Louisiana crawfish producers and processors will be able to utilize the H-2A program to
6 meet their essential seasonal workforce needs immediately and that long-standing, compliant
7 users of the H-2B program be designated as certified seasonal employers.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of Labor, the
9 United States Center for Immigration Services and the Department of State should take
10 immediate action to improve H-2B processing times, including reinstating interview waivers
11 for returning H-2B workers.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the action to reclassify the job duties of the
13 crawfish industry as agricultural labor services be taken expeditiously, with emergency
14 measures implemented to ensure the timely processing of the H-2A visas and to meet the
15 labor demands of the 2026 crawfish season.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the
17 President of the United States, the secretary of the United States Department of Labor, the
18 secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security, the majority and minority
19 leaders of the United States Senate, the speaker and minority leader of the United States
20 House of Representatives, and each member of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation.

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)]

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Memorializes the U.S. Congress, the U.S. President, the U.S. Dept. of Labor, the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, and the La. Congressional Delegation to take all necessary and appropriate actions to pass the H-2B Certified Seasonal Employer Designation and reclassify all job duties of the crawfish industry as agricultural labor services for purposes of the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Worker Program.