

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 136

BY SENATOR HARRIS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request Louisiana Economic Development to study and report on the governance, financing, jurisdiction, duties, coordination, transparency, and public-benefit obligations of boards, commissions, districts, authorities, and related public or quasi-public entities operating on, adjacent to, or materially affecting the riverfront and adjacent neighborhoods and districts in Orleans Parish.

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Riverfront includes public land in Orleans Parish that is historic and is among the most significant public, economic, cultural, historic, transportation, and tourism assets in the state; and

WHEREAS, these public lands preserve historic landscapes and offer abundant tourism and opportunities that draw millions of visitors annually stimulating local and state economies while offering social and recreational opportunities and benefits to residents; and

WHEREAS, there is a need and desire to support efforts to develop, to provide and encourage public access, and to coordinate through responsible and sustainable stewardship of these assets; and

WHEREAS, the riverfront and adjacent neighborhoods and districts in Orleans Parish are supported by multiple boards, commissions, districts, authorities, and related public or quasi-public entities that play integral roles, with differing legal authorities, geographic boundaries, governance structures, revenue streams, operational duties, and public responsibilities that often cross boundary management; and

WHEREAS, consultation, coordination, and alignment of the roles and responsibilities between the multiple entities along the riverfront and adjacent neighborhoods and districts in Orleans Parish, is essential to the long term economic vitality of further economic development, tourism and recreation of the riverfront assets, the city of New Orleans, and the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, there is an interest in ensuring that the stewardship of public assets along the riverfront and adjacent neighborhoods and districts in Orleans Parish are well maintained, and that public entities collaborate for increased efficiency and transparency ensuring that maintenance and operational cost, public safety, investment in public infrastructure, governance and investment to enhance the economic, cultural, and social vitality of the areas are transparent, efficient, publicly accountable, and structured in a manner that supports sound stewardship of public assets, coordination, cooperation, understanding of capacity, and the delivery of measurable economic and public benefit.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request Louisiana Economic Development to work with the city of New Orleans, New Orleans & Company, and GNO, Inc. to study and report on the governance, jurisdiction, duties, coordination, public-benefit obligations of boards, commissions, districts, authorities, and related public or quasi-public entities operating on, adjacent to, or materially affecting the riverfront in Orleans Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include but not be limited to the following:

(1) An inventory of boards, commissions, districts, authorities, public benefit entities, nonprofit public instrumentalities, special taxing districts, and other public or quasi-public bodies with jurisdiction, authority, operational responsibility, ownership, management responsibility, taxing authority, financing authority, leasing authority, maintenance duties, programming responsibilities, or other material influence over property, facilities, improvements, operations, public access, or development on, adjacent to, or materially affecting the riverfront in Orleans Parish.

(2) Identification of the legal basis for each entity, including constitutional, statutory, charter, ordinance, contractual, cooperative endeavor, intergovernmental, or other authority.

(3) Identification of the geographic boundaries, service areas, or functional jurisdiction of each entity.

(4) Identification of the governing structure of each entity, including board composition, appointing authority, reporting obligations, and lines of oversight or accountability.

(5) Identification of the assets, facilities, public spaces, improvements, leases, or projects under the authority, ownership, management, control, or material influence of each entity and revenues and financing mechanisms associated with each entity.

(6) Evaluation of opportunities to improve coordination, alignment of responsibilities, and clarity of roles among entities, including where multiple entities may operate within the same geography or serve related public purposes.

(7) Evaluation of whether public obligations are clearly assigned, including obligations related to public access, maintenance, capital improvements, infrastructure coordination, redevelopment, economic development, neighborhood impacts, public safety, and whether the relationship between basic municipal services and enhanced services is clearly defined and effectively coordinated.

(8) Evaluation of land management practices, roles, and responsibilities and coordination across entities and whether existing revenues and responsibilities are aligned for sustainable stewardship of the area, aligned to further leverage and attract private investment for improving and expanding public access and economic development in the area.

(9) Identification of any entity, agreement, or financing structure for which enhanced coordination, reporting, or potential statutory or administrative adjustments may be beneficial.

(10) Recommendations for any legislation, local ordinances, cooperative endeavor agreements, memoranda of understanding, governance protocols, to improve delivery, efficiency, coordination, fiscal accountability, and public-benefit alignment, including clarifying and strengthening the alignment between basic municipal services and enhanced services.

(11) Evaluation of the provision of core or basic municipal services delivered by the city of New Orleans, including but not limited to sanitation, public safety, infrastructure maintenance, and code enforcement, and an assessment of how enhanced services, including supplemental cleaning, public space management, security, beautification, programming, and economic development activities provided by districts, authorities, and other public or quasi-public entities are aligned, coordinated, and complementary to basic services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in conducting the study, Louisiana Economic Development may solicit information, cooperation, comments, records, and recommendations from all relevant stakeholders with assets or jurisdictional or operational authority on or near the riverfront and adjacent neighborhoods and districts in Orleans Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all state agencies, political subdivisions, boards, commissions, districts, authorities, public bodies, and public officials are urged to cooperate with Louisiana Economic Development and to provide information and assistance necessary to carry out the purposes of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Louisiana Economic Development shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772 not later than February 1, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of Louisiana Economic Development.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE