

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 120

BY SENATOR CROWE

EMPLOYMENT. Establishes the Transformation Village Task Force to study the feasibility of repurposing and/or reopening the closed amusement park in New Orleans and the development of employment opportunities for Louisiana citizens.

1                                   A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2       To establish the Transformation Village Task Force to study and make recommendations  
3               with respect to the feasibility of repurposing and/or reopening the closed amusement  
4               park in New Orleans and the development of employment opportunities for  
5               Louisiana citizens.

6               WHEREAS, New Orleans East is the home of an abandoned amusement park which  
7       was previously operated as "Jazzland" between the years 2000 and 2003 and "Six Flags New  
8       Orleans" between the years 2003 and 2005 but which closed in August 2005 when the park  
9       was heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina; and

10              WHEREAS, the mayor of the city of New Orleans has worked tirelessly and  
11             vigorously to return the damaged property back to commerce; and

12              WHEREAS, both the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana have invested  
13             funds for the building of the original Jazzland which opened in 2000; and

14              WHEREAS, the legislature desires to offer assistance to the mayor and to the New  
15             Orleans City Council in this worthwhile effort to reopen and/or repurpose the abandoned  
16             amusement park; and

17              WHEREAS, it is believed that hundreds of new employment opportunities for  
18             Louisiana citizens, particularly those living in the greater New Orleans area, would be

1 available if the amusement park was reopened; and

2 WHEREAS, the New Orleans area and the state of Louisiana are in need of  
3 employment opportunities in the private sector; and

4 WHEREAS, an amusement park would bring substantial tourism dollars to New  
5 Orleans East and to the greater New Orleans region including the north and south shores of  
6 Lake Pontchartrain; and

7 WHEREAS, many amusement parks around the country have been the destinations  
8 of choice for church and school youth groups and other visitors who bring tourism dollars  
9 to the area as well as many missions-minded persons; and

10 WHEREAS, working together as a team, it is believed that a task force could  
11 facilitate the gathering of information regarding federal, state, local and private funding  
12 sources as well as economic development grants and available employment tax credits; and

13 WHEREAS, it is believed that a job training program offered by private companies  
14 and faith-based organizations could provide valuable work force training and employer tax  
15 incentives to facilitate greater economic investment into the area.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby creates  
17 the Transformation Village Task Force to study and make recommendations with respect to  
18 the feasibility of repurposing and/or reopening the closed amusement park in New Orleans  
19 and the development of employment opportunities for Louisiana citizens.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the  
21 following members:

22 (1) The chair of the Senate Committee on Labor and Industrial Affairs, who shall  
23 serve as the cochair of the task force.

24 (2) The chair of the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Affairs, who shall  
25 serve as the cochair of the task force.

26 (3) Four members appointed by the mayor of the city of New Orleans.

27 (4) The executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, or his designee.

28 (5) The secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, or his  
29 designee.

30 (6) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development, or his designee.

- 1           (7) The member of the Senate representing Senate District 1.
- 2           (8) The member of the Senate representing Senate District 3.
- 3           (9) The member of the House of Representatives representing House District 99.
- 4           (10) The member of the House of Representatives representing House District 100.
- 5           (11) The member of the House of Representatives representing House District 103.
- 6           (12) The member of the city council of the city of New Orleans representing Council
- 7 District E.
- 8           (13) One member appointed by the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce.
- 9           (14) One member appointed by Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- 10          (15) Two members appointed by the governor.
- 11          (16) One member appointed by the president of the Senate.
- 12          (17) One member appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve  
14 without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be  
15 individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the total membership shall  
17 constitute a quorum of the task force and any official action by the task force shall require  
18 the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting.

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall meet as necessary and shall  
20 report its findings to the legislature, with any recommendations for legislation, not later than  
21 March 1, 2014.

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the staff of the Senate Committee on Labor and  
23 Industrial Affairs shall assist the task force as is necessary.

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
25 governor, the mayor of the city of New Orleans, the executive director of the Louisiana  
26 Workforce Commission, the secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and  
27 Tourism, the secretary of the Department of Economic Development, the council member  
28 of the city council of the city of New Orleans representing Council District E, the New  
29 Orleans Chamber of Commerce, and Greater New Orleans, Inc.

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The original instrument was prepared by Carla S. Roberts. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by J. W. Wiley.

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## DIGEST

Crowe

SCR No. 120

Creates the Transformation Village Task to study and make recommendations with respect to the feasibility of repurposing and reopening the closed amusement park in New Orleans and the development of employment opportunities for Louisiana citizens.

Provides that the task force shall be composed of:

- (1) The chair of the Senate Committee on Labor and Industrial Affairs, who shall serve as the cochair of the task force.
- (2) The chair of the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Affairs, who shall serve as the cochair of the task force.
- (3) Four members appointed by the mayor of the City of New Orleans.
- (4) The executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, or his designee.
- (5) The secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, or his designee.
- (6) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development, or his designee.
- (7) The member of the Senate representing Senate District 1.
- (8) The member of the Senate representing Senate District 3.
- (9) The member of the House of Representatives representing House District 99.
- (10) The member of the House of Representatives representing House District 100.
- (11) The member of the House of Representatives representing House District 103.
- (12) The member of the New Orleans City Council representing Council District E.
- (13) One member appointed by the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce.
- (14) One member appointed by Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- (15) Two members appointed by the governor.
- (16) One member appointed by the president of the Senate.
- (17) One member appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

Specifies that the members of the task force serve without compensation, except for such reimbursement or per diem they are individually entitled to as members of the constituent group they represent.

Requires that the task force report its findings to the legislature, with any recommendations for legislation, not later than March 1, 2014.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to original bill

1. Adds two members to task force.