

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 120

BY SENATOR CROWE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, it is believed that hundreds of new employment opportunities for Louisiana citizens, particularly those living in the greater New Orleans area, would be available if the amusement park was reopened; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(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 city council of the city of New Orleans 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES