

2020 LA SCR 65

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SLS 20RS-1587

ENGROSSED

2020 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 65

BY SENATORS CLOUD, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CONNICK, CORTEZ, FESI, FOIL, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TARVER, WARD, WHITE AND WOMACK

FUNDS/FUNDING. Expresses the intent of the legislature to allocate \$100,000,000 of the local government allocation and \$100,000,000 from the state allocation from the CARES Act to small businesses, of which \$12,500,000 from the local government allocation and \$12,500,000 from the state allocation shall be used for minority and women owned businesses.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the intent of the legislature to appropriate \$100,000,000 of the local government portion and \$100,000,000 of the state portion of the CARES Act funding for small businesses in Louisiana, of which \$12,500,000 of the local government portion and \$12,500,000 of the state portion shall be used for minority and women owned businesses.

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) which was signed into law on March 27, 2020, and which established the Coronavirus Relief Fund (Fund); and

WHEREAS, the CARES Act provides monetary assistance to state and local governments and includes an allocation to the state of Louisiana from the Fund of over \$1.8 billion; and

WHEREAS, the CARES Act provides that, of the amount allocated to each state, an amount not to exceed forty-five percent may be directed to local governments; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the CARES Act funding directed to local governments will be appropriated according to a plan implemented by the legislature and that local governments may submit evidence that they are due reimbursement for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)-related expenses; and

WHEREAS, the CARES Act allows state and local governments to make payments for programs that:

- (1) Are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19.
- (2) Were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020, for the state or local government.
- (3) Were expenses incurred during the period beginning March 1, 2020, and ending December 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments dated April 22, 2020 (Guidance), states that the requirement that expenditures be incurred "due to" the public health emergency may include expenditures incurred to respond to second-order effects of the emergency, such as providing economic support to those suffering from employment or business interruptions due to COVID-19-related business closures; and

WHEREAS, the Guidance states that eligible expenses include payment for expenses associated with the provision of economic support in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency, such as expenditures related to the provision of grants to small businesses to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures; and

WHEREAS, due to COVID-19, many small businesses were required to close and were not able to conduct business during the approximately two-month period the state was under quarantine, and thus suffered financially from business interruptions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its intent to include, as part of the plan for the appropriation of a portion of the CARES Act funding for local governments, that \$100,000,000 be used for small business grants, of which \$12,500,000 shall be used for minority and women owned small businesses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its intent to include, as part of the plan for the appropriation of a portion of the CARES Act funding for the state, that \$100,000,000 be used for small business grants, of which \$12,500,000 shall be used for minority and women owned small businesses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, and the chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Martha S. Hess.

DIGEST

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Cloud

Expresses the intent of the legislature to allocate \$100,000,000 of the local government portion and \$100,000,000 of the state portion of the CARES Act funding for small businesses in Louisiana, of which \$12,500,000 from the local government portion and \$12,500,000 from the state portion shall be used for minority and women owned small businesses.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the original bill

1. Changes amount of allocation from \$200,000,000 from the local government allocation to \$100,000,000 from the local allocation and \$100,000,000 from the state allocation
2. Changes amount for minority and women owned businesses from \$25,000,000 from the state allocation to \$12,500,000 from the state allocation and \$12,500,000 from the local allocation.

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