SLS 10RS-1162 ENGROSSED

Regular Session, 2010

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 53

BY SENATOR PETERSON

EMPLOYMENT. Directs the development of a plan to support state employees who are terminated due to implementation of budget-reduction measures in preparation for reentry to the private sector workforce.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To direct the division of administration, the Louisiana Workforce Commission, the

Department of Economic Development, the Department of State Civil Service, the office of group benefits, the Louisiana State University System, the Southern University System, the University of Louisiana System, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, and the State Police Pension and Retirement System to work together to develop a plan to support state employees who are terminated due to budget-reduction measures in their preparation to reenter the workforce in the private sector.

WHEREAS, the people of the state of Louisiana have mandated that the state operate with a balanced budget, requiring that expenditures in a fiscal year shall not exceed the current official revenue forecast; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana is facing unprecedented declines in state revenue necessitating deep cuts in the state budget for the current fiscal year and for the following two fiscal years; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Streamlining Government approved

Recommendation No. 215 on December 1, 2009, which requires each state agency to make

a five percent reduction in positions in each of the next three fiscal years; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal note for Recommendation No. 215 shows a savings for each year's reduction to be in excess of one hundred million dollars; and

WHEREAS, the commission further adopted Recommendation No. 222 on December 8, 2009, which advises state agencies that if a reduction in force becomes necessary, creation of any reduction-in-force plan should include discussions of a separation package, which may include provisions for lump sum payments, health insurance, and education or training; and

WHEREAS, Recommendation No. 173 adopted by the commission on December 1, 2009, advises that the expense of any separation package should not outweigh the savings to the state, and specifies that the recurring savings should fund the cost of the package within five years of implementation; and

WHEREAS, Governor Bobby Jindal has issued executive orders BJ 2009-11, BJ 2010-5, and BJ 2010-6 requiring a hiring freeze, a spending freeze, and the withholding of merit increases among all executive branch agencies; and

WHEREAS, each state agency is charged with maximizing cost savings by outsourcing, implementation of technological innovations, consolidation of duplicative programs, elimination of nonessential services, enhancing efficiencies, privatization, and reduction of employees generally; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of preserving the dignity of state employees who are terminated as a result of the implementation of cost-saving measures and encouraging those employees to remain contributing members of Louisiana's economy, a separation package available to all such employees who are not eligible for or who are not yet prepared to enter retirement should be developed; and

WHEREAS, to assure that the separation package is designed to provide maximum value in meeting the needs of persons who become unemployed, the participation in development of the plan must be broad-based and include all state agencies with duties related to employment and compensation of state employees or with expertise in workforce development.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby

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direct the division of administration, the Louisiana Workforce Commission, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of State Civil Service, the office of group benefits, the Louisiana State University System, the Southern University System, the University of Louisiana System, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, and the State Police Pension and Retirement System to work together to develop a plan to support state employees who are terminated as a result of cost-saving actions in their preparation to reenter the workforce in the private sector and to report the plan design to the legislature on or before June 21, 2010.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Commissioner of Administration Angele Davis, Louisiana Workforce Commission Executive Director Curt Eysink, Secretary of Economic Development Stephen Moret, Department of State Civil Service Executive Director Shannon Templet, the office of group benefits Executive Director Tommy Teague, Louisiana State University System President Dr. John V. Lombardi, Southern University System Interim President Dr. Kassie Freeman, University of Louisiana System President Dr. Randy Moffet, Louisiana Community and Technical College System Dr. Joe May, Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System Executive Director Cindy Rougeou, Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana Executive Director Maureen Westgard, and State Police Pension and Retirement System Executive Director Irwin Felps.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Laura Gail Sullivan.

DIGEST

Peterson SCR No.

Directs the division of administration, the Louisiana Workforce Commission, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of State Civil Service, the Office of Group Benefits, the Louisiana State University System, the Southern University System, the University of Louisiana System, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, and the State Police Pension and Retirement System to work together to develop a plan to support state employees who are terminated due to outsourcing in their preparation to reenter the workforce in the private sector.

Requires a report to the legislature on or before June 21, 2010.

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Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Changes the report due date <u>from May 21, 2010 to June 21, 2010.</u>