



Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force  
Phase I Report  
May 8, 2020

LOUISIANA

**ECONOMIC  
RECOVERY**

TASKFORCE

Presented to  
Senate President Page Cortez and House Speaker Clay Schexnayder

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## Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

### Business and Government Working Together

The LAER Task Force comprises private sector business leaders tasked with advising lawmakers on economic recovery in the wake of the COVID-19. The goal of the Task Force, established by Senate President Page Cortez and House Speaker Clay Schexnayder, is to develop practical and specific policy recommendations to jumpstart the Louisiana economy in the short term and lay the foundation for continued economic resurgence in the months and years to come.

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## Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force Task Force Leadership



JASON M. DECUIR, CHAIRMAN

Jason DeCuir oversees controversy and appeals, dispute resolution and legislative matters, as Principal within Ryan's Advocacy Practice. He represents clients in the business and industry sector, spanning several states, primarily in the Southeast. Ryan, LLC is a leading global tax services firm with the largest indirect and property tax practices in North America. Prior to Ryan, Mr. DeCuir served as Chief of Staff, Assistant Secretary and Executive Counsel at the Louisiana Department of Revenue (LDR) during his tenure from 2011 – 2014. In these roles, he was an advisor to three Secretaries and to the Governor on legal and policy issues affecting state taxation.

While at LDR, Mr. DeCuir was responsible for the Litigation, Policy Services, Criminal Investigation, and Public Affairs Division. He also oversaw all legislative matters with respect to tax policy and was actively involved with national organizations such as FTA, MTC, COST and SEATA). In 2013, DeCuir was tasked by the Governor to help spearhead his tax reform efforts. In this role, he was instrumental in reforming the structure for tax appeals in the state of Louisiana, increasing the state's COST scorecard from a "D-" to a "B."

At Ryan, Mr. DeCuir continues to play an active role tracking tax policy at state capitols across the country, while representing clients from all industry sectors. Mr. DeCuir is known for his unique negotiating style and cultivating his broad base of relationships to deliver results for clients. He continues to specialize in dispute resolution, legislative advocacy and government relations.

In Mr. DeCuir's experience as a tax policy expert, he has been appointed to serve on the following councils and commissions: LABI's Taxation & Finance Issue Council (Chairman), the Louisiana Sales Tax Streamlining and Modernization Commission, the Louisiana Task Force on Structural Change in Budget and Tax Policy (HCR 11), the PAR Constitutional Advisory Council, the PAR Tax Advisory Committee, the Mississippi Department of Revenue Business Advisory Council, and served on a Governor's fiscal transition team to advise on budgetary and tax issues.

Mr. DeCuir is a frequent lecturer on state and local tax policy at national tax conferences around the country, including: Council on State Taxation (COST), Institute for Professionals in Taxation (IPT), Multi-State Tax Commission (MTC), Southeastern Association of Tax Administrators (SEATA), etc. It is also common for Mr. DeCuir to appear on state and local television and radio shows as an expert on tax matters.

Mr. DeCuir's previous experience in the private sector includes being a tax attorney and partner in several law firms and the founder of a consulting firm that specialized in tax advocacy and governmental affairs for companies across multiple industry sectors. Mr. DeCuir has a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Howard University where he was an Academic All-American and a 4-year letterman as a place-kicker. He also holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Louisiana Tech University, a Juris Doctor degree and a Bachelor of Civil Law degree from the Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center, and a Master of Laws degree in Taxation from Georgetown University Law Center.

Mr. DeCuir has served on the Boards of Baton Rouge Food Bank, Boys and Girls Club, Cristo Rey Baton Rouge Franciscan High School, Inspire Charter Academy, LABI, Salvation Army, and Young Leaders Academy. He is also a member of the Federal, State and Local Bar Associations in Louisiana. In his spare time, Mr. DeCuir enjoys golfing, boating and is a color commentator for high school football on a major television network in Louisiana.



JOEL ROBIDEAUX, VICE-CHAIRMAN

Joel grew up in Lafayette where he and his wife Bobette raised their three boys -- Dylan, Brennan and Luke. He is a graduate of the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette) and LSU, earning his master's degree in Finance before becoming a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). For 20 years he owned and operated a successful accounting firm in Lafayette, serving individuals, families and businesses before being elected as Lafayette Parish's chief executive

In 2004, Joel was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives. As a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, he served in many leadership roles including Speaker Pro Tempore, Chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee, Chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay, Chairman of the Retirement Committee, and as a Louisiana State Bond Commission member.

During his tenure as a State Representative, Joel was recognized by his colleagues with the coveted Hudson Cup, the "Gentleman of the House" award for the legislator who "most exemplifies the qualities of decorum, respect, humor and leadership" during the 2013 legislative session.

In 2015, Joel was elected as Lafayette's Mayor-President. He served in that role for four years before deciding not to seek reelection. During his tenure as Mayor-President, Joel focused on leveraging Lafayette's entrepreneurship, fiber infrastructure, and cultural uniqueness as economic drivers. Managing a budget of over \$600million, he identified areas of surplus and redirected over \$30million to much needed drainage efforts. He also initiated the conversion of our Parish Animal Control Center to a "No-Kill Shelter" for domestic pets.

Mayor-President Robideaux has been active in the community, having served as Charter President of Kiwanis of Vermilion and a board member for both Camp De Bon Coeur and Habitat for Humanity. He has been an adjunct faculty member at UL and an instructor for Junior Achievement. As a fan of youth sports, he also coached for Lafayette Little League Baseball and Lafayette Youth Soccer.



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force Organizational Structure

## Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

# ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

LEGISLATIVE SELECT  
COMMITTEE ON LOUISIANA  
ECONOMIC RECOVERY

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE  
The Honorable Page Cortez

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
The Honorable Clay Schexnayder

• (RECEIVES REPORT)

TASK FORCE

TASK FORCE CHAIR  
Jason M. DeCuir

ENSURING PUBLIC  
HEALTH & SAFETY  
AT WORK

SUPPORTING DIVERSE  
INDUSTRIES ACROSS  
THE LA ECONOMY TO  
GROW & PROSPER

ENCOURAGING  
LONG-TERM  
ECONOMIC GROWTH

STEERING  
GROUP

PROMOTING JOBS &  
OPPORTUNITY FOR  
LOUISIANA

REMOVING OBSTACLES  
TO INCENTIVIZE JOB  
CREATION &  
ECONOMIC GROWTH

(FIVE WORK GROUPS)



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force Steering Group

Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

## STEERING GROUP

CHAIR OF TASK FORCE

VICE-CHAIR OF TASK FORCE

FIVE CHAIRS OF WORK GROUPS

PRESIDENT'S APPOINTEE

SPEAKER'S APPOINTEE

FIVE SPECIAL ADVISORS

PUBLIC RELATIONS



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

## Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

### JOINT LEGISLATIVE SELECT COMMITTEE

#### SENATE

PRESIDENT,  
THE HONORABLE PAGE CORTEZ

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP,  
THE HONORABLE BETH MIZELL

FINANCE,  
SEN. "BODI" WHITE

REVENUE & FISCAL AFFAIRS  
SEN. BRET ALLAIN

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS,  
SEN. TROY CARTER

HEALTH & WELFARE,  
SEN. FRED MILLS

COMMERCE,  
SEN. RONNIE JOHNS

REPUBLICAN DELEGATION,  
SEN. SHARON HEWITT

BLACK CAUCUS,  
SEN. JIMMY HARRIS

#### HOUSE

SPEAKER, THE HONORABLE  
CLAY SCHEXNAYDER

SPEAKER PRO TEMP,  
THE HONORABLE TANNER MAGEE

APPROPRIATIONS,  
REP. "ZEE" ZERINGUE

WAYS & MEANS,  
REP. STUART BISHOP

COMMERCE,  
REP. PAULA DAVIS

HEALTH & WELFARE,  
REP. LARRY BAGLEY

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS,  
REP. SAM JENKINS

REPUBLICAN DELEGATION,  
REP. BLAKE MIGUEZ



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

## Phase I Report

### LAER Task Force Membership

#### Task Force Members

**Task Force Chairman:** Jason DeCuir, Ryan, LLC

**Task Force Vice-Chairman:** Joel Robideaux, Summit Financial

**Senate President's Appointee:** Verge Ausberry, LSU Athletics

**Speaker of the House's Appointee:** Lionel Rainey III, LR3 Public Relations

**Task Force Members:** Scott Ballard, Ballard Brands, LLC; Ballard Hospitality, LLC  
Dr. Stephen Barnes, Kathleen Blanco Public Policy Center/ULL  
Jim Bernhard, Bernhard Capital Partners  
Greg Bowser, LCA/LCIA  
Gifford Briggs, LOGA  
Stephanie Calhoun, CenturyLink  
Blake Chatelain, Red River Bank  
Chett Chiasson, Greater Lafourche Port Commission  
Jeff Copeskey, Exxon Mobil  
David Cresson, CCA Louisiana Hank Danos, Danos  
Maura Donahue, Donahue Favret  
Jeff Drozda, Louisiana Association of Health Plans  
Lavelle Edmonson, Marathon Petroleum Company  
David Ellis, Entergy New Orleans  
Friday Ellis, Governor Property Group; Governors Cigar & Pipe  
Tommy Fauchoux, Dow  
Art Favre, Performance Contractors, Inc.  
John Finan, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System  
Kelisha Garrett, New Orleans Regional Black Chamber  
Cody Gielen, Shop Rite/Tobacco Plus  
Tyler Gray, LMOGA  
Dr. Craig Greene, BROOC Orthopedic Surgery; LA PSC District 2  
Steve Grissom, The Newton Group  
Bryan Hanks, Beta Land Services  
Stan Harris, Louisiana Restaurant Association



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

## Phase I Report

### LAER Task Force Membership

#### Task Force Members

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Beverly Haydel, Sequitur Consulting

Michael Hecht, GNO, Inc.

Meryl Kennedy Farr, Kennedy Rice Mill, LLC; Neighbors, LLC

Adam Knapp, BRAC

Raymond Lasseigne, TMR Exploration, Inc.

Chris Leopold, Chris Leopold Specialty Company, LLC

Scott Martinez, North Louisiana Economic Partnership

Matt McKay, All Star Automotive Group

Jude Melville, B1Bank

Quentin L. Messer, New Orleans Business Alliance

Todd Murphy, Jefferson Chamber of Commerce

Richard Neal, Golden Nugget Lake Charles

Nannette Noland, The Powell Group

Pete November, Ochsner Health System

Dr. Katie O'Neal, LSUHSC; Our Lady of the Lake

Allyson Pharr, Acadian Ambulance

Scott Poole, RoyOMartin

Art Price, Badger Oil

Deborah Randolph, Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce

Dave Roberts, Excel

Ruffin Rodrigue, Ruffino's

Eric Schouest, CLECO

Chris Schouest, iTA Truck Sales & Service, LLC; Fairway Transport, LLC; Acadiana Waste Services, LLC; Schilling Distributing Company

Dr. Loren C. Scott, Loren C. Scott & Associates, Inc.; LSU

Doug Shipley, Fairgrounds Race Course

Nathalie Simon, Laitram Manufacturing

Craig Spohn, Cyber Innovation Center

Dennis Stine, Stine Lumber

Dawn Starns, NFIB

George Swift, SWLA Economic Development Alliance/Chamber

Stephen Waguespack, LABI

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# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force Phase I Report LAER Task Force Membership

## Advisors

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### Key Advisors:

Whitney LaNasa, Stonehenge Capital  
Meghann Tullos, Ryan, LLC

### Special Advisors:

Jim Bourgeois  
Camille Conaway, LABI  
Barker Dirmann, Ascension Chamber of Commerce  
Beverly Haydel, Sequitur Consulting  
Ileana Ledet, GNO, Inc.



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force Phase I Report Task Force Work Groups

## Task Force Work Groups:

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- Group 1:** Ensuring Public Health and Safety at Work
  - Group 2:** Promoting Jobs and Opportunity for Louisiana
  - Group 3:** Supporting Diverse Industries across the Louisiana Economy to Grow and Prosper
  - Group 4:** Removing Obstacles to Incentivize Job Creation and Economic Growth
  - Group 5:** Encouraging Long-Term Economic Growth
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# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

## Phase I Report

### Executive Summary

## Executive Summary

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On April 17, 2020, Louisiana Speaker of the House Clay Schexnayder and Senate President Page Cortez announced the establishment of the Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force. The task force is comprised of more than sixty members of the private sector representing a multitude of industries and interests, including healthcare, hospitality, food and beverage, oil and gas, construction, trucking, manufacturing, banking, utilities, and a wide variety of small business owners, as well as leaders from economic development organizations across the state. Together, the Speaker and President charged the task force with developing comprehensive policy, legislative, and regulatory recommendations to immediately restart the Louisiana economy and invest in the long-term recovery of households, workers, and businesses, while simultaneously recognizing the critical need to protect the health and safety of all Louisiana residents and workers. The task force is divided into five separate work groups: (1) Ensuring Public Health and Safety; (2) Promoting Jobs and Opportunity for Louisiana; (3) Supporting Diverse Industries Across the Louisiana Economy to Grow and Prosper; (4) Removing Obstacles to Incentivize Job Creation and Economic Growth; and (5) Encouraging Long-Term Economic Growth.

The Speaker and President requested that the task force present its final report to legislative leadership no later than July 1. However, recognizing the need for immediate legislative action to help jump-start the Louisiana economy and with the 2020 Regular Session mandated to adjourn no later than June 1, the task force leadership decided to divide its work into three separate phases.

- The Phase I Report includes actionable recommendations that the legislature can implement during the 2020 Regular Session to provide immediate relief to businesses and families;
  - The Phase II Report will include recommendations that should be implemented during this fiscal year but may be more appropriate for a Special Session or future regulatory rulemaking;
  - The Phase III Report, which will be presented no later than July 1, will include recommendations that may not be immediately necessary to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic but are still critical to spur long-term economic growth and make Louisiana more economically competitive with other states.
  - Since convening on April 17, 2020, the full task force has held three virtual meetings. Each meeting was open to the public and had over 250 participants. Each work group has met at least twice and has also reached out to an array of additional stakeholders to gather input.
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# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

## Phase I Report

### Executive Summary

#### Executive Summary

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This Phase I Report contains numerous specific, actionable recommendations for legislative action. The recommendations include both statutory and regulatory changes and impact a host of subject matters and industries. Most recommendations can be achieved either through a legislative instrument already filed during the Regular Session or through executive agency policy changes. The recommendations address an array of issues, including health and safety matters such as testing and access to PPE, childcare, workforce training and tax policy. Almost all of the recommendations are intended to provide immediate relief to businesses, including small businesses, as they seek to safely re-hire workers, re-open and begin growing again. Numerous work groups, for example, recommend that the legislature provide limited liability protections and tax relief to businesses who have stepped up to provide assistance during this public health emergency and to those who act in good faith and follow best practices to safely re-open and protect their employees. Other work groups recommend rolling back certain burdensome regulations and temporarily suspending the collection of fees and licenses that may place financial strain on businesses already facing serious liquidity challenges.

The task force believes the recommendations contained in this report represent the first step in jump-starting Louisiana's economy and setting our state on a trajectory of growth. We look forward to working with the legislature to implement these recommendations and those to follow in the Phase II and Phase III reports.



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

## Phase I Report

### Group 1: Ensuring Public Health and Safety at Work

#### Members

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Scott Ballard, Ballard Brands, LLC; Ballard Hospitality, LLC

Jeff Drozda, Louisiana Association of Health Plans

David Ellis, Entergy New Orleans

Friday Ellis, Governor Property Group; Governors Cigar & Pipe

John Finan, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System

Dr. Craig Greene, BROC Orthopedic Surgery, LA Public Service Commissioner District 2

Stan Harris, Louisiana Restaurant Association

Beverly Haydel, Sequitur Consulting

Quentin Messer, New Orleans Business Alliance

Pete November, Ochsner Health System

Dr. Catherine O'Neal, LSUHSC, Our Lady of the Lake

Allyson Pharr, Acadian Ambulance

Doug Shipley, Fairgrounds Race Course

**Chair:** Dr. Craig Greene

**Special Advisor:** Beverly Haydel

#### Introduction

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The Public Health and Safety Work Group contains representatives not only from the healthcare industry but also from many other small and large businesses across multiple industries, including hospitality, food service and public utilities. The group began its work on April 28, 2020 and has met twice thus far to gather input and feedback on the recommendations provided in this Phase I Report. The high-level charge of the work group included developing policy recommendations for how the State can assist businesses as they seek to safely re-open, protect employees, and begin growing again, and helping define what the role of the State should be going forward with respect to testing and containing spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Prior to discussing specific recommendations, the work group identified several broad policy goals to guide its work:

- Coordinated, testing, tracing and tracking that is recommended, but not mandated, for individuals.
  - No unfunded mandates on business seeking to safely re-open and operate.
  - Expanded access to health care.
  - Rolling back of regulations that prevent businesses from hiring and growing.
  - Limited liability for healthcare providers and businesses who are assisting in COVID-19 response and recovery and who are acting in good faith to protect employees and consumers.
  - Greater access to capital and financial assistance for small businesses and low-income residents in areas hard hit by COVID-19.
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# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

## Phase I Report

### Group 1: Ensuring Public Health and Safety at Work

The work group has also gathered feedback from several stakeholders and industry groups not directly represented on the Task Force, including health care and health insurance providers and business owners. The following recommendations, which track the policy goals outlined above, reflect broad consensus among all work group members and are recommendations the work group believes can be implemented immediately during the Legislature’s 2020 Regular Session. Some recommendations will require a bill to implement; others will require only a concurrent resolution, including, in one instance, a resolution temporarily suspending certain provisions of current law.

## Recommendations

### Testing, Tracing, Tracking



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Request that LDH and DOA provide an immediate update to the Legislature on efforts to establish an application or system to track COVID-19 incidence and spread	Concurrent Resolution	All Louisiana citizens	Ensure Louisiana is acting quickly to set up systems and processes to immediately identify and contain future spread	Resolution	None
Require that participation in any tracing system established by the State or local governments to protect the public health in response to COVID-19 be <i>recommended but not mandated</i> for all individuals	Title 40 (Public Health)	All Louisiana citizens	Protects personal privacy and data  <i>*Bill would track the COVID-19 Consumer Data Protection Act being introduced in the U.S. Senate</i>	TBD	None

### Testing, Tracing, Tracking



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Request that CARES Act funding made available to the State and LDH for testing (including CDC funding) be distributed to healthcare systems (and potentially employers for antibody testing)  <i>*Work Group recommends that private providers, not the State, should be administering testing. The State’s role should be limited to funding, coordinating, and reporting.</i>	Concurrent Resolution	Healthcare providers, Louisiana residents, insurers	Expanded access to testing	Resolution	Zero (CARES Act funding should be used)



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force Phase I Report

## Group 1: Ensuring Public Health and Safety at Work



### No Unfunded Mandates

Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
<p>Prohibit state agencies and licensing boards from imposing any unfunded mandates on businesses, including non-profits, related to PPE and/or social precautions related to COVID-19 response</p> <p><i>*Work Group strongly recommends that the State issue only recommended guidelines based on industry best-practices, not mandates regarding PPE and social distancing</i></p>	Title 40 (Public Health and Safety)	All business owners	Minimize financial burden on businesses that are already struggling financially to safely re-open and may have trouble accessing and paying for PPE or physical space adaptations	TBD	Zero

### Federal Funding



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
<p>Concurrent resolution supporting the federal State and Municipal Aid for Recovery and Transition (SMART) Act introduced by Sen. Bill Cassidy and Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ). The bill would create a \$500 billion fund to help states and local governments plug revenue losses and target additional funding toward COVID hot zones to combat the pandemic.</p>	Concurrent Resolution	The State, all Louisiana residents, U.S. Congress	<p>Increased federal funding for Louisiana to help fund critical Louisiana services and programs</p> <p><i>*distribution formula would = 1/3 based on population size, 1/3 on the number of Covid-19 cases, and 1/3 on revenue losses relative to pre-covid-19 projections to target the urgent economic challenge</i></p>	Resolution	Zero



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

## Phase I Report

### Group 1: Ensuring Public Health and Safety at Work

## Expand Access to Care



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Expand access to and coverage of telehealth services	Title 22 (Insurance)	LDH (Medicaid), Commercial Payors, Self-insured plans, Healthcare Providers, Physicians, Patients	Expands access to care; health equity	HB 530 (Rep. Echols, M.); HB 553 Crews, R.)	Long-term cost savings from increased access to preventative care
Align Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement for telehealth	Title 40 (Public Health & Safety)	LDH (Medicaid), Commercial Payors, Healthcare Providers, Physicians, Patients	Expands access to care; health equity	HB 589 (Rep. Echols, M.)	Long-term cost savings from increased access to preventative care

## Roll Back Red Tape



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Temporarily suspend all license and other fees imposed on businesses by state agencies, their divisions, and state licensing boards, including LDH, DPS, State Fire Marshall, and others	Suspension Resolution	Business owners, licensing boards	Provides businesses with greater liquidity to address immediate needs, including rehiring of workers, PPE, safety measures	Resolution	Undetermined
Require regulating entities to grant occupational and professional licenses when certain requirements are met	Title 37 (Professions and Occupations)	Licensing boards, employers, workers	Makes it easier for employers to hire qualified workers by granting reciprocal licenses for licenses earned out of state and requires regulating entities to issue an occupational license to workers based on work experience in another state if certain requirements are met	HB 622 (Rep. Emerson, J.)	Zero



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force Phase I Report

## Group 1: Ensuring Public Health and Safety at Work

### Roll Back Red Tape



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Expand the number and type of entities who are able to administer competency evaluations for nurse aides	Title 37 (Professions and Occupations); LAC 48:1-XXV	Nurses, Healthcare Providers, LA State Board of Nursing	Make it easier and quicker for nurse aides to access the competency exam and begin providing care	HB 242 (Rep. Johnson, M.); HB 237 (Rep. Carter, W.)	Zero
Expand the type of facilities that are able to hire nurse aides who have completed their coursework and training but have not passed the competency exam (provided certain requirements are met)	Title 37 (Professions and Occupations); LAC 48:1-XXV	Nurses, Healthcare Providers, LA State Board of Nursing	Provide a larger pipeline of nurse aides, especially to facilities and care centers that are who are willing to provide on-the-job training; provide a solution to increased demand for nurse aides due to social distancing rules	HB 242 (Rep. Johnson, M.); HB 237 (Rep. Carter, W.)	Zero

### Roll Back Red Tape



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Sign onto the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact and EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact	Title 37 (Professions and Occupations)	Physicians, LSBME, Healthcare Providers, EMS, Emergency Response Personnel	Streamlines licensing process for physicians and emergency medical responders who want to practice and provide services in multiple states	SB 464 (Rep. Peacock, B.); SB 46 (Rep. Peacock, B.)	Zero



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force Phase I Report

## Group 1: Ensuring Public Health and Safety at Work

### Protect Businesses and Healthcare Providers from Liability



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Limited liability for healthcare providers and businesses during COVID-19 emergency, including as a result of alleged exposure	Civil Code (Title 9)	Business Owners, Healthcare Providers, Attorneys	Greater certainty and protection from frivolous litigation for healthcare providers and business owners seeking to safely re-open and grow	HB 826 (Rep. Pressly, T.)	Zero
Limited liability for individuals and businesses providing food, shelter, equipment and supplies during the COVID-19 emergency	Title 9 (Civil Code; Professions and Occupations (Title 37))	Business Owners, Healthcare Providers, Attorneys	Protection from frivolous litigation for those who have stepped in to help others during COVID-19 emergency	HB 856 (Edmonds), SB 491 (Hewitt), SB 508 (McMath)	Zero

### Improve Access to Capital/ Financial Assistance



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Use funding made available through the CARES Act to establish a Small Business Assistance Fund	Title 51 (Trade and Commerce)	Small business owners	Provide immediate liquidity to small businesses within certain industries (authorized uses should include costs for PPE, new technology, physical space adaptations)	HB 862 (Rep. Garofalo, R.)	Zero SGF (only utilizing CARES Act funding)
Use CARES Act funding sent to Louisiana to provide temporary (2-month) public transportation subsidies for eligible workers	N/A	Public transit systems; workers	Increase access to public transit for workers in certain industries (e.g., food service, hospitality, healthcare) and certain geographical areas with heavy reliance on public transit (NOLA, BR, Shreveport)	HB 105	Zero SGF (only utilizing CARES Act funding)



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

## Task Force Working Groups

### Group 1: Ensuring Public Health and Safety at Work

#### Conclusion

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The Public Health and Safety Work Group believes that each of the above recommendations will simultaneously help ensure that Louisiana residents remain safe and healthy and that Louisiana businesses are able to begin re-hiring and growing. While we believe that all of the recommendations are worthy of immediate consideration, the recommendations related to civil liability protection seek to address the most pressing issue facing the business community during this public health emergency. Moreover, there are several bills already filed that can serve as legislative instruments to achieve the recommendations. We believe those bills should be taken up and moved through the process as quickly as possible.

Finally, with respect to testing (both symptomatic and antibody), contact tracing, and tracking, our recommendations generally reflect a belief that the State should, to the greatest extent possible, limit its role to coordination and information-sharing. Louisiana is home to numerous high-quality health care systems who have done an excellent job of identifying and treating COVID-19 patients and are well-equipped to do so going forward. Additionally, both within and outside of Louisiana, private sector companies are developing and deploying advanced technology to help contain spread of this deadly virus going forward through voluntary contact tracing and disease tracking. Louisiana should immediately leverage public-private partnerships to access these technologies.



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

## Phase I Report

### Group 2: Promoting Jobs and Opportunity for Louisiana

## Members

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Dr. Stephen Barnes, Kathleen Blanco Public Policy Center/University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Tommy Faucheux, Dow  
Cody Gielen, ShopRite/Tobacco Plus  
Vic Lafont, South Louisiana Economic Council  
Nannette Noland, The Powell Group  
Deborah Randolph, Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce  
Eric Schouest, CLECO  
Nathalie Simon, Laitram Manufacturing  
George Swift, SWLA Economic Development Alliance/Chamber SWLA

**Chair:** Nathalie Simon

**Special Advisor:** Jim Bourgeois

## Introduction

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The Promoting Jobs and Opportunity for Louisiana Work Group contains representatives from small and large businesses across multiple industries, including food service, agriculture, petrochemical, and utilities. In addition, we are fortunate to have the perspective from economic development and chambers of commerce as well. The group began its work on April 28, 2020 and has met three times to develop the recommendations provided in this Phase I Report.

The focus of the Promoting Jobs and Opportunity for Louisiana Work Group is to resolve barriers to restarting the Louisiana economy and positioning Louisiana for long-term prosperity by providing clear, predictable, and transparent laws and regulations that do not limit investment and job growth. The most important consideration to opening the Louisiana economy will be to ensure a safe and healthy return to work for employees and employers. Only after that is accomplished can we have the flexibility to facilitate, cultivate, and unleash innovative solutions to foster job growth and grow the economy. The initial focus of our recommendations is to identify those areas, such as gaps in childcare and limited internet connectivity, that form barriers to Louisiana going back to work and addressing them intentionally and prudently. In addition, our group identified several areas that can provide financial relief to Louisiana businesses suffering during this time.

The following recommendations will require a variety of legislative and executive instruments to implement but they all seek to address those issues preventing the economy recover in a safe but expedient manner.

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# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

## Phase I Report

### Group 2: Promoting Jobs and Opportunity for Louisiana

## Recommendations

### Unemployment Insurance



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Encourage clear, consistent, and easily accessed explanations of unemployment benefits and potential ramifications (e.g. tax liability, SNAP eligibility)	Concurrent Resolution; Urge & Request resolution of LWC	All Louisiana citizens	Ensure UI recipients are aware of the implications of continued claims when economy restarts	N/A	None, repurposing of existing staff and budget
Postpone employer unemployment compensation contributions by two months for the second and third quarters	Amends R.S. 23:1552(C)(7) and 1553(C); adds R.S. 23:1531(D) and 1533(A)(5))	Employers	Delay tax burden of employers during time when cashflow is low, especially for small businesses	SB 461	None, the unemployment trust fund will receive all the contributions just later

### Childcare



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Prioritize childcare industry workers for COVID testing and limiting liability	Civil Code (Title 9)	Childcare providers, their teachers and parents, employers, Chambers, United Ways, child advocacy community	Keeping childcare workers and children safe; Providing additional level of assurance to parents that returning to work will not place children in danger at a childcare center	HB 826 (amendment to add early care and education providers to limited liability)	N/A
Use CARES Act funds to support the bulk acquisition of PPE and sanitation equipment to offset costs to childcare centers	Urge & Request resolution of Department of Education to use CARES Act funds assist childcare centers	Childcare Center business owners and employees	Access to PPE will be essential for childcare centers to reopen; PPE cost can increase tuition cost unless DOE uses available Federal funds	N/A	None



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force Phase I Report

## Group 2: Promoting Jobs and Opportunity for Louisiana

### Workforce Training and Job Growth



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Create a new process for the Workforce Investment Council and Occupational Forecasting Conference to identify near-term workforce training / education needs following a declared emergency such as COVID-19	RS 23:76	Louisiana workforce and education system; employers; workers	Reprioritize most immediate training and education needs and ensure available funding can be used to support those programs	Amendments to existing statutes can establish an alternate process for calling meetings and developing short-term plans to deal with a declared emergency	Minimal
Immediately compel an assessment of short- and long-term workforce implications and opportunities resulting from COVID-19, with targeted, proactive engagement of the private sector experts to better understand trends/shifts/work pipeline	Concurrent Resolution	Louisiana workforce and education system; Employers; Workers	Provide information to training and education providers on those industries most impacted by disaster and identify/capture/prepare for emerging opportunities	N/A	None

### Workforce Training and Job Growth



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Resist efforts to reduce budgets of education and workforce training providers, with an emphasis on programs that can mobilize quickly to meet market demands and best maximize technology	N/A	Louisiana workforce and education Providers; Employers; Workers	Maintaining funding will enable and facilitate quick implementation of plans/needs, ensure ability to recover more quickly, and better position LA for growth after COVID	N/A	None
Consider broadening the scope and inclusion of Quality Jobs and/or Enterprise Zones to industries currently omitted (e.g. hotels restaurants, retail) on a temporary or short-term basis	TITLE 51 - Trade and Commerce	All Louisiana citizens	Provide tax rebates to employers expanding their workforce		None, incentive for additional hiring will result in additional spending (i.e. sales tax receipts, property tax)



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force Phase I Report

## Group 2: Promoting Jobs and Opportunity for Louisiana



## Broadband Access and Adoption

Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Remove public and private sector barriers to accelerate the expansion broadband in Louisiana	Title 12 of Revised Statutes; Urge & Request Resolution of DOTD; Title 45 of Revised Statutes; Title 33 of Revised Statutes	All Louisiana citizens; Local governments	Continue effective employment, enhanced TeleHealth programs and online educational opportunities; Utilization of FCC RDOF Program funds	SB 406; SCR 35; HB 651; HB 666; LPSC orders	None
Create a Louisiana Broadband Maps to identify access and activation gaps	Resolution; Executive Order; Creation of Executive Task Force	All Louisiana citizens, especially in rural areas; ISPs, State Agencies, FCC	Information provided in a map can identify gaps in broadband coverage and better focus expansion efforts	N/A	None, repurposing of existing staff and budget

### Conclusion

Promoting Jobs and Opportunity for Louisiana Work Group believes that the long-term prosperity of our state can only be achieved when the ingenuity and entrepreneurship of its citizens can shine. The goal of our recommendations is to enable that workforce to prosper by providing assistance and guidance in areas preventing employers and employees from achieving their economic goals. The most critical investment that can be made today is in the education and continued training of the Louisiana workforce. These unprecedented times are going to require a nimble workforce prepared to adapt to new COVID-related market realities while capitalizing on potential growth opportunities.

We look forward to working together to continue this important work and thank you for your consideration of these initial proposals.



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

## Phase I Report

### Group 3: Supporting Diverse Industries Across the Louisiana Economy to Grow and Prosper

#### Members

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Jim Bernhard, Bernhard Capital Partners  
Chett Chiasson, Greater Lafourche Port Commission  
Blake Chatelain, Red River Bank  
Hank Danos, Danos  
Lavelle Edmonson, Marathon Petroleum Company  
Meryl Kennedy, Kennedy Rice Mill, LLC  
Adam Knapp, Baton Rouge Area Chamber  
Scott Martinez, North Louisiana Economic Partnership  
Matt McKay, AllStar Automotive Group  
Richard Neal, Golden Nugget Lake Charles  
Dave Roberts, Excel  
Ruffin Rodrigue, Ruffino's Restaurants and Catering  
Stephen Waguespack, Louisiana Association of Business & Industry

**Chair:** Stephen Waguespack

**Special Advisor:** Ileana Ledet

#### Introduction

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The Supporting Diverse Industries Across the Louisiana Economy to Grow and Prosper (“Growth and Prosperity”) Work Group was tasked with seeking ways to help businesses solve liquidity problems, outline the challenges and needs of major industries, and find ways to address short- and long-term challenges. The Work Group also considered targeted policies to promote growth across the state. Members were asked to consider three questions – *what type of behavior can the state incentivize to stimulate business recovery; what type of financial assistance would help businesses most effectively recover from the shutdown; and what steps can be taken immediately to mitigate challenges*. The Work Group arrived at ten recommendations, but identified Top Five Priorities:

- Provide legal liability protection for employers.
- Enact legal reform measures that discourage frivolous lawsuits and lead to lower costs.
- Address changes to Industrial Tax Exemption Program.
- Implement temporary incentive to spark immediate investment.

From discouraging frivolous lawsuits to better incentivizing investment, many of the solutions identified by the Work Group supported proposals that have long been advocated. This led to clear agreement among members that Louisiana cannot ignore obvious solutions when we have fundamental issues we must fix.

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# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force Phase I Report

## Group 3: Supporting Diverse Industries Across the Louisiana Economy to Grow and Prosper

### Recommendations

## Jumpstart Commerce – Liability Protection



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Provide legal liability protection for employers	Title 9 (Civil Code)	Overall market, businesses, consumers benefitting from open commerce	Businesses reopen and operate with confidence	HB 826 (Pressly), HB 856 (Edmonds), SB 435 (Abraham), SB 491 (Hewitt), SB 508 (McMath)	None
Enact legal reform measures that discourage frivolous lawsuits and lead to lower costs	Title 22 (Insurance)	Louisiana citizens who see reduced auto insurance rates; businesses suffering from frivolous lawsuits	Louisiana's personal and commercial auto insurance markets become more competitive, driving down auto insurance rates	HB 9 (Garofalo), SB 418 (Talbot)	None

## Jumpstart Commerce – Incentivize Investment



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Address changes to Industrial Tax Exemption Program	Title 13 (Economic Development)	Overall market, businesses, consumers benefitting from open commerce	Make Louisiana the obvious place to do business by better incentivizing manufacturers	HB 347 (Ivey), HCR 4 (Beaulieu), SB 187 (White)	Depends on type of change to program
Implement temporary incentive that will spark immediate (next 18 months-3 years) investment in Louisiana	Title 13 (Economic Development)	Overall market, state and local governments, workers, businesses	Spurs immediate investments that have extensive impact across industries, by producing jobs and workers patronizing local establishments		TBD
Sales tax holiday for consumers and/or business	Title 47 (Revenue and Taxation)	Consumers, retailers	Spur commerce by providing temporary sales tax relief		Depends on type of holiday; local sales taxes could be exempt



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force Phase I Report Group 3: Supporting Diverse Industries Across the Louisiana Economy to Grow and Prosper

## Jumpstart Commerce – Incentivize Investment



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
NOL carryback	Title 47 (Revenue and Taxation)	Overall market, businesses	Provides business relief and enhances competitiveness		
Suspension or elimination of Franchise Tax	Title 47 (Revenue and Taxation)	Overall market, businesses	Better aligns Louisiana with other state; provides business relief and enhances competitiveness	HCR 43 (Edmonds), SCR 26 (Hewitt)	\$91M (FY17)

## Jumpstart Commerce – Fiscal Reform



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Enact pension reform	Title 11 (Public Retirement)	Taxpayers, future state employees, state government	Hybrid system with defined benefit as well as defined contribution reduces risk for future liabilities and saves taxpayer dollars	HB 31 and HB 32 (Ivey), SB 18 (Peacock)	Net savings
Centralized sales tax collection	Title 47 (Revenue and Taxation)	Businesses of all sizes, state and local governments	Aligns Louisiana with other states and eases burden on businesses of remitting taxes to various jurisdictions; better positions the state to collect all available sales tax	HB 428 (Echols), HB 429 and HB 791 (Magee)	Could be net positive due to additional sales tax collection



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force Phase I Report Group 3: Supporting Diverse Industries Across the Louisiana Economy to Grow and Prosper

## Jumpstart Commerce – Ease Regulatory Burdens



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Licensing reform	Title 37 (Professions and Occupations)	Licensing boards, employers, workers	Eases the barrier of entry for those eager to work; also eases burden for employers to hire qualified workers	HB 498 and HB 622 (Emerson), SB 469 (Johns)	None

### Conclusion

The Growth and Prosperity Work Group identified these ten proposals as measures that would give businesses the necessary relief to reopen, continue operations and maintain a presence in Louisiana. The Work Group recognized that the majority of these proposals are not new concepts – and that serves to not only bolster the validity of these ideas but leads to the conclusion that these are fundamental issues that cannot be discounted and need to be fixed.

Work Group members also recognized that additional research should be conducted to explore the fiscal impact of legalized sports betting, online gaming, and emerging industries that could yield additional tax revenue. The Work Group would support the creation of legislative task forces that more deeply explore the benefits, challenges and impact of allowing and regulating additional industries in Louisiana.



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

## Phase I Report

### Group 4: Removing Obstacles to Incentivize Job Creation and Economic Growth

#### Members

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Greg Bowser, LCA/LCIA

Gifford Briggs, Louisiana Oil & Gas Association

Jeff Copeskey, Exxon Mobil

David Cresson, CCA Louisiana

Barker Dirmann, Ascension Chamber of Commerce

Bryan Hanks, Beta Land Services

Ray Lasseigne, TMR Exploration, Inc.

Chris Leopold, Chris Leopold Specialty Company, LLC

Jude Melville, B1Bank

Scott Poole, RoyOMartin

Chris Schouest, iTA Truck Sales & Service, LLC, Fairway Transport, LLC, Acadiana Waste Services, LLC,

Schilling Distributing Company, LLC

Dawn Starns, NFIB

**Chair:** Scott Poole

**Special Advisor:** Barker Dirmann

#### Introduction

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The Removing Obstacles to Incentivize Job Creation and Economic Growth Work Group (“Removing Obstacles Work Group”), chaired by Scott Poole, President and COO of RoyOMartin, is made up of a diverse group of business leaders from every corner of the state offering unmatched knowledge and expertise across all sectors of the Louisiana economy. Over the last week and half, the Removing Obstacles Work Group has held two virtual meetings to discuss its charge and scope of work and to develop recommendations for its Phase I report.

In an effort to focus attention, thought and experience to the defined objectives and goals assigned to the Removing Obstacles Work Group the group was divided into teams of two assigned to one of the following policy goals:

- Minimize the potential liability for businesses as they seek to re-open under new guidelines and regulations.
  - Identify and correct current policies and regulations that are inhibiting economic recovery.
  - Work to streamline licensing requirements, paperwork, and unnecessary regulations for general operations and the creation of new businesses.
  - Consider changes to occupational licensing laws that will ease the cost and burden of getting back to work.
  - Suggest ways for local government to ease regulatory and licensing burden.
-



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

## Phase I Report

### Group 4: Removing Obstacles to Incentivize Job Creation and Economic Growth

In the development of the work group's Phase I proposals and recommendations, Chairman Poole charged his subgroups with identifying economic recovery proposals that would impact multiple industries and levels of business. Through this process, it became clear that although the COVID-19 economic crisis has hit some sectors of the economy harder than others it still negatively impacted them in similar ways. Meaning, it was not difficult for this group to identify those proposals that would positively impact businesses both big and small and on different ends of the economic spectrum. The Removing Obstacles Work Group developed the following proposals that can be implemented in the short term through legislative action during the 2020 Regular Legislative Session and coordination with state agencies and local governments.

## Recommendations

### Minimize Liability for Businesses Under Post COVID-19 Rules and Regulations



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislation Instrument	Fiscal Impact
Elevate the legal liability standard for COVID-19 related lawsuits from negligence to gross negligence or willful misconduct.	Title 9 (Civil Code)	Businesses, Employers, Employees, Consumers	Relief from frivolous litigation	HB 826 (Rep. Pressly)	None
Protect businesses producing PPE in response to the declare emergency.	Title 9 (Civil Code)	PPE Manufactures, Consumers	Relief from frivolous litigation	SB 491 (Sen. Hewitt)	None
Limit liability for restaurants donating and selling food	Title 37 (Professions and Occupations)	Restaurants, Consumers	Relief from frivolous litigation	HB 856 (Rep. Edmonds) SB 508 (Sen. McMath)	None



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

## Phase I Report

### Group 4: Removing Obstacles to Incentivize Job Creation and Economic Growth

## Correct Policies and Regulations Inhibiting Recovery



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Work towards a safe, orderly and expedited end to the statewide stay at home order and establish policies and procedures that will allow the Louisiana economy to return to normal as quickly as possible.	Executive Order	All of Louisiana	Restart the Louisiana economy.	Concurrent Resolution	None
Pass legislation addressing costal lawsuits.	Title 49 (State Administration)	Oil and Gas Industry; Attorney General; Parish gov't	Would greatly assist the oil and gas industry in its restart and recovery following the COVID 19 economic crisis	SB 359 (Sen. Hensgens)	None

## Correct Policies and Regulations Inhibiting Recovery (continued)



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Adjustment severance tax for the price of oil/gas below a certain threshold.	Title 47	Oil and Gas; State and Local Gov't	Would greatly assist the oil and gas industry in its restart and recovery following the COVID-19 economic crisis	HB 506 (Rep. DeVillier)	At threshold price or below. Year one will have no impact on either state and local gov't. Reduction in revenue
Reduce the civil jury trial threshold.	Code of Civil Procedure (1732)	All Louisiana residents and businesses	Enhance a citizen's right to a jury trial	HB207, HB280, SB45, SB86	None
Provide clear and accessible information on regulations implemented by executive branch agencies in response to COVID-19.	Concurrent Resolution	State gov't; Businesses; Employers; Employees	Will allow businesses and employers to reopen safely and in compliance with all new rules and regs.	Concurrent Resolution	None



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

## Phase I Report

### Group 4: Removing Obstacles to Incentivize Job Creation and Economic Growth

## Streamline Burdensome Licensing Requirements and Regulations for Creating New Businesses



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Suspend franchise tax	Tax Code	All business; La Department of Revenue	Free up capital for re-investment, encourage fairness, attractiveness to new businesses	HCR43 (Edmonds. R) SCR 26 (Sen. Hewitt)	Reduction in tax revenue
Empower the Secretary of State to waive, suspend, delay compliance with rules deemed impractical or overly burdensome.	Title 9, 12, 51	All businesses; Secretary of State	Removes regulatory burdens on businesses trying to survive this economic crisis.	SB 499 (Sen. Connick)	Immaterial

## Reduce Cost and Burden Associated with Occupational Licensing



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Require licensing boards to waive certain fees for applicants meeting certain criteria.	Title 37 (Professions and Occupations)	Businesses, Professional and Occupational Licensing Boards	Provide greater access to those looking to enter or re-enter the workforce and remove barriers for those attempting to start their own business.	HB 498 (Rep. Emerson)	Reduction in revenue to licensing board associated with licensing fees.
Require licensing boards to grant occupational and professional licenses when certain requirements are met	Title 37 (Professions and Occupations)	Professional and Occupational Licensing Boards, Employers and Resident Workforce	Bolsters the state's workforce by allowing for reciprocity for licenses and experience earned in another state.	HB 622 (Rep. Emerson)	Zero



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force Phase I Report Group 4: Removing Obstacles to Incentivize Job Creation and Economic Growth

## Ways for Local Government to Promote Economic Recovery



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Ask local government entities to immediately suspend any performance requirements tied to the receipt/award of a business tax incentive or abatement.	Louisiana Administrative Code	Local Government; Businesses; LED/BCI	This suspension would give impacted economic development projects and respective companies the time to recover and reassess projects without fear of non-compliance/cancellation of incentive contracts.	N/A	Zero
Temporarily relax building code requirements to reduce burdens associated with unnecessary regulations built into local building permits and codes.	UCC (Title 40 and 22)/Local Building Codes	Local Government; Business; SFMO	Removes obstacles for businesses seeking to invest money in capital improvements in this time of economic crisis.	N/A	Zero

## Ways for Local Government to Promote Economic Recovery (continued)



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
Request the state to promptly distribute federal COVID-19 relief funding intended for local government.	Concurrent Resolution	State and Local Gov't	Parish and municipalities around the state will be able to better determine and implement local business relief programs when this funding is allocated.	Concurrent Resolution	Zero



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

## Phase I Report

### Group 4: Removing Obstacles to Incentivize Job Creation and Economic Growth

#### Conclusion

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In conclusion, the Removing Obstacles Work Group reiterates the importance for the successful implementation of each recommendation proposed to kick-start the state's economy towards recovery. This group understands that to create and retain jobs, businesses and employers need capital, and to expand and grow, businesses and employers need capital. That is why many of the Phase I recommendations from the Removing Obstacles Work Group focus on protecting capital and reducing unnecessary burdens for Louisiana businesses in these tough economic times.

While it is the hope of the Removing Obstacles Work Group that the recommendations in this Phase I report can be implemented in this short timeframe, the group has already established that those policy goals that are not accomplished in Phase I will likely be carried over into its Phase II and Phase III reports.





# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

## Phase I Report

### Group 5: Encouraging Long-Term Economic Growth

## Members

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Stephanie Calhoun, CenturyLink  
Maura Donahue, Donahue-Favret Contractors, Inc.  
Art Favre, Performance Contractors, Inc.  
Kelisha Garrett, New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce  
Tyler Gray, LMOGA  
Steven Grissom, The Newton Group  
Michael Hecht, GNO, Inc.  
Todd Murphy, Jefferson Chamber of Commerce  
Art Price, Badger Oil  
Dr. Loren C. Scott, Loren C. Scott & Associates, Inc., LSU  
Craig Spohn, Cyber Innovation Center  
Dennis Stine, Stine Lumber

**Chair:** Maura Donahue

**Special Advisor:** Camille Conaway

## Introduction

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The membership of the Encouraging Long-Term Economic Growth Work Group represents a diverse cross-section of the Louisiana business community including construction, oil and gas, technology and cybersecurity, retail, industrial contractors, and telecommunications. The scope of work for this Group included:

- The development of new or revised policies, including tax policies, to promote investment from major industries;
  - Reforming Louisiana's legal climate to help reduce auto insurance rates, bring back energy jobs, reduce frivolous litigation, increase transparency and public input in judiciary.
  - Incentivizing workforce modernization, technology development and innovation.
  - Changing taxes and policies unique to Louisiana that hinder job growth and investment such as the inventory tax, decentralized sales tax collection, and the franchise tax.
  - Targeted policies to help Louisiana cities better compete with areas like Houston, Atlanta, Charlotte for jobs and investment.
  - Investment in new and updated multi-modal infrastructure to support economic growth and improved quality of life.
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# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force

## Phase I Report

### Group 5: Encouraging Long-Term Economic Growth

The Work Group met twice prior to the release of this report with each member offering specific solutions and areas of work for consideration. Each member volunteered to research items of interest, consulting national and in-state reports to construct the recommendations. The following solutions fell into four broad areas that enjoy the consensus of the full Working Group:

1. Comprehensive Tax Reform
2. Legal Regulatory Structure
3. Governmental Reforms
4. The Modern Economy

## Recommendations

# 1. Comprehensive Tax Reform



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders		Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
<b>1. Reduce the severance tax rate by 50 percent from 12.5% of gross value to 6.25% (still above the national average of 5.2%).</b>	Statutory	Onshore and nearshore E&P companies; natural gas producers; oil and gas workforce; state and local government		Support for struggling industry; more competitive business environment -> more jobs, royalties, taxes	HB 506 Devillier	~\$50m+ (note: severely depressed prices are already drastically reducing collections)
<b>2. Suspend, reduce, or reform the telecommunications ad valorem tax.</b>	CA/statutory	Telecommunications companies; State and local government	Streamline and simplify collections	TBD	TBD	Long-term impact (requires CA passage by voters)



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force Phase I Report Group 5: Encouraging Long-Term Economic Growth



## 1. Comprehensive Tax Reform (cont.)

Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
<b>3. Clarify the uses of the digital media tax credit and expand applicability beyond products (i.e. video games).</b>	Statutory	IT companies; film industry; higher education	Simplified digital media program focused on meaningful, emerging trends in IT	TBD	~\$10m
<b>4. Establish centralized sales tax collection and auditing.</b>	CA/statutory	Businesses statewide; Local tax collectors and entities	Immediate relief for burdensome process for businesses; more competitive and functional tax system; compliance with US Supreme Court for online collections -> tax revenue increases	*HB429 / HB 791 Magee *HB428 Echols	Initial administrative costs to the state; lower revenues associated with the collections process for local governments; increased revenue with the ability to collect online sales taxes



## 1. Comprehensive Tax Reform (cont.)

Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
<b>5. Reform the sales tax system to establish a more simple, unified sales tax base.</b>	CA/statutory	Businesses statewide; State and local government	More simple, efficient tax system with state/local alignment of exemptions and exclusions	TBD	TBD
<b>6. Replace the existing ITEP process with a more streamlined, simple framework.</b>	CA/statutory	Industry statewide; State and local government	Stability --> additional industrial expansion and investment --> growth in construction and skilled jobs; more sales tax and property tax revenue	Numerous instruments filed in 2020 session	No direct investment or revenue reduction from state or local governments; delays potential tax collections until a future date



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force Phase I Report Group 5: Encouraging Long-Term Economic Growth



## 1. Comprehensive Tax Reform (cont.)

Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
<b>7. Reform the inventory tax and credit.</b>	CA/statutory	Businesses statewide; State and local government	Removal of an uncompetitive disincentive to investment and productivity	TBD	Lost revenues for local government and increased revenue to state government if simply eliminated
<b>8. Simplify the tax system overall to lower rates and expand the base.</b>	CA/statutory	Broad impact on all taxpayers and state and local government	Simple, broad-based tax system that is competitive, fair, and stable	TBD	TBD

## 2. Legal and Regulatory Structure



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact	
<b>1. Streamline the permitting process for broadband to expand capacity and connectivity (short and long term)</b>	Statutory / policy	Telecommunications companies; State (DOTD) and local government	Expedited broadband deployment	HB651 Deshotel HB666 Johnson	N/A	Immediate action, short-term impact
<b>2. End the state's coastal lawsuits against the oil and gas industry.</b>	Statutory / policy	Oil and gas industry and workforce		Removal of unnecessary burden on struggling operators; competitive/stable business environment	SB 359 Hensgens	Potential for direct investment; potential savings in legal fees and human resources



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force Phase I Report Group 5: Encouraging Long-Term Economic Growth

## 2. Legal and Regulatory Structure (cont.)



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
<b>3. Enact comprehensive legal reform.</b>	Statutory	Statewide business community and households	Competitive business environment; reduction in cost of auto insurance	HB9 Garofalo / SB 418 Talbot	N/A

## 3. Governmental Reforms



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
<b>1. Take steps toward a constitutional convention to undertake such "big ideas" as tax reform and finance, budget reforms and removal of dedications, and simplifications to move numerous items into statutes.</b>	CA	All Louisianans	Fix the challenge of "a rich state with a poor structure"	TBD	TBD
<b>2. Reform legacy pension systems to both stabilize the cost to taxpayers and attract a modern workforce.</b>	Statutory	New public employees, including teachers; taxpayers	Hybrid options for retirement that include a safety net but offer more mobility and affordability	TBD	~\$10m actuarial estimate for LASERS (SB14 of 2018)



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force Phase I Report Group 5: Encouraging Long-Term Economic Growth

## 3. Governmental Reforms (cont.)



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
3. Consider the possibility of a 2.0 version of the Streamlining Government Commission.	Statutory / policy	Agencies, boards, and commissions in state government	Close examination of contracts and expenditures across state government	TBD	TBD

## 4. The Modern Economy



Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
1. Pursue policies and incentives to move toward a more diverse economy that is less cyclical and more knowledge-based, including "smart incentives" such as the investment in higher education to support tech growth.	Statutory / policy	All Louisianans; companies in the knowledge-based economy	More and better jobs; more resilient economy	TBD	\$25m



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force Phase I Report Group 5: Encouraging Long-Term Economic Growth

## 4. The Modern Economy (cont.)

LOUISIANA  
ECONOMIC  
RECOVERY  
TASK FORCE

Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
2. Transform Louisiana's educational systems to build a workforce that is ready for the knowledge-based economy – including changes such as public dollars following the student.	CA/statutory	Students; parents; teachers; workforce; school systems; business and industry; the state of Louisiana	Improved educational opportunities for all students; higher quality schools through competition; better trained workforce, lower unemployment, and higher-paying jobs; more industry investment in La; maintain our best and brightest	TBD	Budget neutral to the state; increased employment and new industries in the tax base

## 4. The Modern Economy (cont.)

LOUISIANA  
ECONOMIC  
RECOVERY  
TASK FORCE

Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
3. Attract a skilled workforce and the employers that offer jobs in these fields.	Statutory / policy		Business-friendly climate for tech companies		
4. Pursue deliberate actions to build a more inclusive economy.	Statutory / policy	Small/minority businesses statewide; state and local government	Greater opportunities for prosperity	TBD	Increased sales tax and reinvestment by the local business community; more revenue in the economy



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force Phase I Report Group 5: Encouraging Long-Term Economic Growth



## 4. The Modern Economy (cont.)

Proposal	Section of Law	Stakeholders	Impact	Potential Legislative Instruments	Fiscal Impact
6. Establish a coordinated effort to position Louisiana to help onshore critical industries from overseas – particularly pharma, tech, cyber, manufacturing, and other national security interests -- that may include a targeted "reshoring incentive" based on payroll brought back to Louisiana.	Statutory / policy	Manufacturing, tech, cyber, and pharma industries	More and better jobs; increased supply-chain security	TBD	TBD

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the Removing Obstacles Work Group reiterates the importance for the successful implementation of each recommendation proposed to kick-start the state's economy towards recovery. This group understands that to create and retain jobs, businesses and employers need capital, and to expand and grow, businesses and employers need capital. That is why many of the Phase I recommendations from the Removing Obstacles Work Group focus on protecting capital and reducing unnecessary burdens for Louisiana businesses in these tough economic times.

While it is the hope of the Removing Obstacles Work Group that the recommendations in this Phase I report can be implemented in this short timeframe, the group has already established that those policy goals that are not accomplished in Phase I will likely be carried over into its Phase II and Phase III reports.



# Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force Phase I Report

LOUISIANA

# ECONOMIC RECOVERY

TASKFORCE

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Special thanks to Stonehenge Capital for assembling this report.

