

1 WHEREAS, according to an article published by the Urban Institute in April, one
2 of Louisiana's largest spending areas per capita is public welfare, which the state spends
3 almost three thousand dollars per capita; and

4 WHEREAS, some of these social services, employment, and job training programs,
5 such as WIOA, funded by the federal government and utilized by states and localities are
6 intended to assist under-served people; and

7 WHEREAS, despite efforts over the years to deliver services to beneficiaries in a
8 coordinated manner, many individuals in Louisiana in need of services and support struggle
9 to navigate fragmented, complex delivery systems and leverage social services programs to
10 achieve positive outcomes such as employment and self-sufficiency; and

11 WHEREAS, according to an article published by the American Enterprise Institute
12 in August 2020, Utah's legislative auditor conducted a legislative audit in 1992 of Utah's
13 twenty-three workforce programs, which was administered by six agencies; and

14 WHEREAS, according to that audit, it was revealed that there was "system
15 fragmentation that made it difficult for Utah residents to access key services, particularly
16 those from disadvantaged backgrounds"; and

17 WHEREAS, the article also mentioned how "over the past two decades, Utah has
18 developed a particularly innovative approach in its efforts to integrate workforce,
19 employment, and training programs"; and

20 WHEREAS, one of the innovative approaches Utah has taken is by tasking Utah's
21 Department of Workforce Services to integrate these federally funded programs and deliver
22 multiple services through "one door", allowing individuals to work with a single caseworker
23 who provides support with applying for qualifying programs, reviewing education, skills,
24 and living needs, and assisting in accessing job training, education, and workforce programs;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, this "one door" policy utilized by Utah has systemically reduced the
27 fragmentation that has hampered these programs' effectiveness for decades, and such a
28 policy serves as a model for other states to emulate; and

29 WHEREAS, as a result of these efforts and approaches, in the wake of the
30 coronavirus pandemic and shutdowns, Utah was one of the first states in the nation to

1 rebound to pre-pandemic employment levels and the state also recovered with employment
2 growth of nearly five percent by April 2022; and

3 WHEREAS, since the "one door" policy has proven to be such a success for Utah,
4 all states should have the flexibility to implement the "one door" policy in order to give
5 citizens one door out of poverty and into opportunity.

6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
7 memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to grant states
8 optional flexibility through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in order to
9 integrate and improve service delivery of federally funded assistance programs, create cost
10 efficiencies, and strategically allocate resources to support state needs and workforce
11 priorities.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
13 presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the
14 United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Memorializes the U.S. Congress to take such actions as are necessary to grant states optional flexibility through the WIOA in order to integrate and improve service delivery of federally funded assistance programs, create cost efficiencies, and strategically allocate resources to support state needs and workforce priorities.