

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

BY REPRESENTATIVES BOURRIAQUE, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BAGLEY, BEAULLIEU, BROWN, BRYANT, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, WILFORD CARTER, CORMIER, COUSSAN, COX, CREWS, DAVIS, DESHOTEL, DUPLESSIS, DWIGHT, EDMONDS, EMERSON, FARNUM, FIRMENT, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, GADBERRY, GAINES, GAROFALO, GOUDEAU, GREEN, HARRIS, HILFERTY, HORTON, HUGHES, HUVAL, ILLG, IVEY, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, TRAVIS JOHNSON, KERNER, LACOMBE, LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MAGEE, MARCELLE, MCKNIGHT, MCMAHEN, MIGUEZ, DUSTIN MILLER, GREGORY MILLER, MINCEY, MOORE, ORGERON, CHARLES OWEN, PIERRE, PRESSLY, RISER, ROMERO, SCHAMERHORN, SCHEXNAYDER, SEABAUGH, SELDERS, STEFANSKI, TARVER, THOMAS, THOMPSON, TURNER, WHEAT, WHITE, WILLARD, AND ZERINGUE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress and the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to take such actions as are necessary to require the Federal Emergency Management Agency to grant Louisiana full federal funding for disaster expenses associated with Hurricane Laura or to grant Louisiana the ability to utilize alternative sources of federal funding as needed matching funds if full federal funding is not provided.

WHEREAS, Hurricane Laura was one of the most powerful storms to hit Louisiana in recorded history; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Laura's exceptionally strong winds left a scar of damage across our state spanning from the Gulf Coast to our northern border; and

WHEREAS, while loss and damage totals are still being compiled, the projections across all states impacted by Hurricane Laura are expected to be in the tens of billions of dollars and Louisiana was undoubtedly the state that suffered the brunt of the storm's impact; and

WHEREAS, between the worldwide slump in oil prices and the COVID-19 pandemic shuttering businesses across the state and withering the state's previously strong tourism revenues, Louisiana's economic prospects for the current and ensuing fiscal years were already strained before Hurricane Laura wreaked her havoc; and

WHEREAS, before Hurricane Laura arrived, Louisiana was already expecting a budget shortfall for the next fiscal year totaling hundreds of millions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, the strain of providing for the health and safety of its citizens while also meeting the matching fund requirements for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's assistance in recovering and rebuilding from Hurricane Laura could cripple our state fiscal resources and infrastructure in the next few years; and

WHEREAS, according to the Congressional Research Service, as of early 2013, over the prior twenty-four years, cost-share adjustments had been made for major disaster declarations two hundred and forty-four times, including for Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Ike, Gustav, and Sandy; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's request to have the state matching portion of its federal disaster assistance waived is not unprecedented and would provide much-needed relief to a state struggling with this year's unexpected hardships.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress and the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to take such actions as are necessary to require the Federal Emergency Management Agency to grant Louisiana full federal funding for disaster expenses associated with Hurricane Laura or to grant Louisiana the ability to utilize alternative sources of federal funding as needed matching funds if full federal funding is not provided.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE