

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 45

BY REPRESENTATIVES DEVILLIER, HORTON, AND EMERSON

A RESOLUTION

To authorize and direct state agencies and licensing boards to suspend the imposition of adverse sanctions against licensees or permittees who are engaged in business with the public for violation of any stay-at-home order, social distancing policy, or business closure mandated by any emergency disaster declaration associated with COVID-19 until the final adjournment of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus, "coronavirus disease 2019", commonly referred to as COVID-19, was first detected in December of 2019; and

WHEREAS, the governor of Louisiana declared a statewide public health emergency and issued a stay-at-home order on March 11, 2020, due to the risks related to public health associated with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the president of the United States indicated that many states would be able to reopen by May 1, 2020, and shared federal guidelines for restarting the economy; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop the guidelines for restarting the economy; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is a diverse state made up of many different communities each of which present different cultural, socioeconomic, and medical challenges; and

WHEREAS, the guidelines of the CDC, public health experts, and President Trump recommend a region by region or county by county (parish by parish) reopening strategy; and

WHEREAS, the economic shutdown which has resulted from the stay-at-home order and the restrictions contained in the governor's emergency disaster declaration have resulted in substantial economic loss and historic unemployment numbers for the people of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, many Louisiana businesses, licensees, and permittees have felt a financial hit due to stay-at-home orders and social distancing measures in place since the beginning of March 2020 in light of the global pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, economic fallout from the pandemic has made it abundantly clear how important businesses, licensees, and permittees are to the fabric of Louisiana's communities; and

WHEREAS, as businesses, licensees, and permittees prepare to reopen and recover, state agencies have an opportunity to support them by suspending any adverse sanctions imposed on business owners for any violation of any stay-at-home order or social distancing policy associated with COVID-19; one less burden placed upon the owners and operators during this difficult time can make a positive impact on their livelihoods, their communities, and the economy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby authorize and direct state agencies and licensing boards to suspend the imposition of any adverse sanctions against any licensee or permittee engaged in business with the public for any violation of any stay-at-home order, social distancing policy, or business closure mandated by any emergency disaster declaration as part of a response to and in an effort to help businesses reopen and recover from COVID-19.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that agencies and licensing boards are directed to suspend adverse sanctions imposed against the licensees or permittees due to a violation of any emergency disaster declaration, stay-at-home order, or social distancing policy until final adjournment of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES