

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

BY SENATORS WHITE, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, COLOMB, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, MARTINY, GARY SMITH, TARVER, WALSWORTH AND WARD

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request Governor John Bel Edwards to issue an executive order directing state agencies and local governments to continue to support the Louisiana State Use Program, managed by Employment Development Services.

WHEREAS, the legislature in 1984 enacted legislation whereby a preference is to be given by all governmental bodies in purchasing products and services from a state supported skill development center that employs persons with severe disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the program is referred to as the Louisiana State Use Program and its provisions are applicable to all state and local governments, educational institutions, and other political subdivisions of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State Use Program is patterned after similar programs utilized by at least twenty other states as well as the federal government with the primary purpose of employing persons with severe disabilities in transitional jobs which give the disabled employees marketable skills, thereby allowing them to be employed in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State Use Program benefits the state of Louisiana in all of the following ways:

(1) Jobs are created for those who would not otherwise be employed; the state conserves resources because these persons have jobs, pay taxes, spend in their community, and receive less or no government support.

(2) Some goods presently bought out of state can be purchased through this program, keeping those dollars in Louisiana.

(3) The program's workers are loyal and consistent high performers for the jobs they undertake.

(4) The mission of the program is to provide services and products to government agencies which exceed specifications at a fair price while also providing job training and jobs for Louisiana workers who suffer from severe disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Council on the Purchase of Products and Services of Severely Disabled Persons has published regulations and procedures to implement the program; and

WHEREAS, the products and services are to be purchased on a pre-bid basis thus avoiding the cost of the bid procedure; and

WHEREAS, the Council on the Purchase of Products and Services of Severely Disabled Persons has established Employment Development Services, Inc. as the central nonprofit agency to coordinate the program negotiating service and custom product contracts within the state under this program and allocation of those contracts to the various sheltered workshops in the state; and

WHEREAS, to accomplish the purposes of the program, Employment Development Services, Inc. enters, as necessary, into contracts with government procuring entities for the furnishing of products or services provided by the sheltered workshops.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request Governor John Bel Edwards to issue an executive order directing state agencies and local governments to continue to support the Louisiana State Use Program, Employment Development Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be submitted to the governor.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE