

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 42

BY SENATOR PETERSON

A RESOLUTION

To reject the Governor's Executive Budget for sweeping one hundred million dollars from the Morial Convention Center and to urge and request the Governor to restore these funds and support responsible budgeting through the use of stable, recurring funds.

WHEREAS, the New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority - Morial Convention Center receives considerable proceeds from a local tax on the sale of hotel and motel rooms in the City of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, the volume of hotel sales is concurrent with the overall health of the tourism and convention industry; and

WHEREAS, the tourism and convention industry as a whole is a dynamic engine of economic growth, empowerment, and innovation for the entire New Orleans region, providing jobs and opportunities for thousands of Louisianians; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans' tourism industry welcomed 9.01 million visitors in 2012, record numbers not seen by the city in nearly ten years; and

WHEREAS, the growth of tourism, and the hotel/motel tax revenue it creates, is the result of the dedicated, cooperative efforts of tourism professionals, local public officials, entrepreneurs, businesses and citizens in and around New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's executive budget takes one hundred million dollars of reserve funds accumulated through revenues culled from the success of New Orleans' tourism market and reallocates those dollars for regular state government functions in regions outside of the New Orleans region.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby reject the Governor's executive budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Governor to cancel his request to take any monies from the New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority and instead promote more responsible methods of funding state government through stable, recurring funding sources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Louisiana, the Honorable Bobby Jindal.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE