

First Extraordinary Session, 2002

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEBLANC

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To extend the time for the Louisiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations to report its findings to the legislature on what services government should provide and the responsibilities of state and local government to provide and fund such services to 2003.

WHEREAS, the Select Committee on Fiscal Affairs (SCOFA) conducted a study of issues affecting the state's fiscal affairs and included in its report a finding that there is no clear delineation of the respective fiscal responsibilities of state and local government in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, SCOFA reported that state spending on local functions totals more than two and one-half billion dollars annually or nearly twenty-eight percent of the state's own source revenue and that the state has very little control of how these funds are spent; and

WHEREAS, SCOFA found that this level of state funding of local functions presents problems of accountability, engenders questions about the adequacy of state and local government revenue bases, and creates barriers to efficient delivery of services at both the state and local level; and

WHEREAS, as SCOFA pointed out, it is clear that to address the issue of determining an appropriate revenue base to meet state needs, it is first necessary to decide what services should be provided by government and which level of government should provide and fund such services; and

WHEREAS, SCOFA recommended that the state implement the suggestion of the National Conference of State Legislatures for a "sorting out" process to determine whether each of the services being provided by state and local government is a government responsibility and whether state or local government should fund and deliver the services; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations is charged with the responsibility of conducting studies of the relationship between state and local governments and the allocation of state and local fiscal resources and also has been assigned the tasks of analyzing the structure, functions, revenue requirements, and fiscal policies of Louisiana and its political subdivisions, conducting studies of economic, administrative tax, and revenue matters for all levels of state government, and making recommendations for improvement, and, therefore, it is appropriate that the commission is undertaking the important study recommended by SCOFA; and

WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 148 of the 2001 Regular Session of the Legislature requested the Louisiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations to undertake this study and report its findings to the legislature not later than sixty days prior to the 2002 Regular Session of the Legislature, but since the commission first began to address this issue at a meeting in December of 2001, and additional time is needed to complete its work, it is appropriate to extend the time by which the commission should report its findings to not later than sixty days prior to the 2003 Regular Session of the Legislature.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby provide that the Louisiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations shall continue in accordance with the National Conference of State Legislatures suggestions for a "sorting out" process, its systematic and thorough study of the responsibilities of state and local government to furnish services to citizens and the formulation of its

recommendations as to those services which government should provide and the level of government that should provide and fund them.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall report its findings to the legislature not later than sixty days prior to the 2003 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to each member of the Louisiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE