Regular Session, 2003

HOUSE BILL NO. 1548

BY REPRESENTATIVE PINAC AND SENATOR HOLLIS

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 36:109(B) and Part VI of Chapter 3 of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 51:971 through 978, relative to economic development; to create the Louisiana Applied Polymer Technology Extension Consortium and its board of directors and advisory committee; to provide for the transfer of the consortium and the advisory committee; to provide for the membership and powers and duties of the board and advisory committee; to provide for the powers and duties of the consortium; to provide for a plan of operation; to provide for funding and audits; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 36:109(B) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

S.109. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department of Economic Development

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B. The following agencies are transferred to the Department of Economic Development and shall exercise their powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities in the manner provided in R.S. 36:801:


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Section 2. Part VI of Chapter 3 of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 51:971 through 978, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

PART VI. LOUISIANA APPLIED POLYMER TECHNOLOGY EXTENSION CONSORTIUM

S.971. Louisiana Applied Polymer Technology Extension
There is hereby created a public nonprofit unincorporated legal entity known as the "Louisiana Applied Polymer Technology Extension Consortium". The consortium shall perform its functions under a plan of operation established under R.S. 51:977 and shall exercise its powers through a board of directors with the advice and consent of an advisory committee.

S.972. Purpose

The purpose of the consortium shall be to promote the development of interdisciplinary, diversified polymer research at various universities located in this state; provide basic and applied research, education, workforce training, and consulting that will retain the state's existing polymer industries, induce such industries to expand and attract new firms and manufacturing or research divisions to the state; and to establish a model of cooperation among the various universities who shall participate in the consortium.

S.973. Board of directors

A. The board of directors of the consortium shall consist of nine persons serving terms as established in the plan of operation. The board shall be composed of two members from Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, selected by the chancellor, two members from Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College at Baton Rouge, selected by the chancellor, two members from Tulane University, selected by the president, one member from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and two members representing the polymer and biopolymer industry in the state selected by the governor.

B. Members of the board shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred as members of the board of directors.

C. The powers and duties of the board of directors shall be:

(1) To develop, promote, and administer the Louisiana
Applied Polymer Technology Extension Consortium.

(2) To provide direction and guidance to the advisory committee.

(3) To report periodically to the secretary of the Department of Economic Development.

S.974. Advisory committee

A. The advisory committee of the consortium shall consist of fifteen members serving terms as established by the plan of operation. The committee shall be composed of the following:

(1) Ten members, representing the administration or the applied polymer technology faculty of the educational institutions listed below. One person shall be selected from each institution by the chancellor or president:

(a) Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College at Baton Rouge.

(b) Tulane University at New Orleans.

(c) University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

(d) Grambling State University at Grambling.

(e) Louisiana Tech University at Ruston.

(f) McNeese State University at Lake Charles.

(g) Southeastern Louisiana University at Hammond.

(h) Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College at Baton Rouge.

(i) The University of New Orleans.

(j) Xavier University at New Orleans.

(2) Five members representing the polymer and biopolymer industry in the state.

B. Members of the committee shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred as members of the committee.

S.975. Powers and duties of the consortium

The consortium shall:
(1) Provide direction, oversight, and information to consortium members.

(2) Provide Louisiana's polymer companies with the following:
   (a) World-class research and development customized to their needs.
   (b) Workforce training.
   (c) Expert consulting.
   (d) Networking opportunities via consortium-sponsored workshops and seminars.
   (e) Employee recruitment opportunities through cooperative students and fellowships.
   (f) Expertise in developing more efficient production techniques, new product lines, increased competitiveness in the international market, and cost savings measures.

(3) Cooperate with local, state, and other governmental and private sector entities to attract polymer and biopolymer companies to locate to Louisiana, aid in the retention of existing Louisiana polymer and biopolymer companies, and through technology transfer efforts help to create new value-added start-up companies and corresponding job opportunities in the polymer and biopolymer industry.

(4) Increase the state's ability to attract federal research grants for applied polymer technology research.

(5) Allow polymer companies to become supporting members of the consortium by paying a membership fee.

(6) Serve as a central clearinghouse to steer members to the most appropriate research and service resources within participating Louisiana universities.

S.976. Powers and duties of the advisory committee

The advisory committee shall:

(1) Under the supervision and guidance of the board of
directors, develop and implement policies, practices, and procedures for the
daily operation of the consortium.

(2) Plan and implement strategies for the accomplishment of
the purpose of the consortium.

(3) Report periodically to the board of directors.

S.977. Plan of operation

A.(1) The consortium shall submit to the secretary of the
Department of Economic Development a plan of operation and any
amendments thereto necessary or suitable to assure the fair, reasonable, and
equitable administration of the consortium. The plan of operation and any
amendments thereto shall become effective either upon the secretary's
written approval or thirty days after submission if he has not disapproved
it.

(2) If the consortium fails to submit a suitable plan of
operation within one hundred twenty days following August 15, 2003, or if
at any time thereafter the consortium fails to submit suitable amendments
to the plan, the secretary shall, after notice and hearing, adopt and
promulgate such reasonable rules as are necessary or advisable to effectuate
the provisions of this Part. The rules shall continue in force until modified
by the secretary or superseded by a plan submitted by the consortium and
approved by the secretary.

B. The plan of operation shall:

(1) Establish the procedure for the election of officers of the
board of directors for the consortium.

(2) Establish procedures whereby all the powers and duties of
the consortium and the advisory committee under R.S. 51:975 and 976 will
be performed.

(3) Establish the amount and method of reimbursing the
members under R.S. 51:973 and 974.

(4) Establish regular places and times for meetings of the
board of directors.

(5) Establish procedures for records to be kept of all financial
transactions of the consortium, its agents, and the board of directors.

(6) Establish additional provisions necessary or proper for the execution of the powers and duties of the consortium.

S.978. Funds; audit

A. The consortium is authorized to apply for, contract for, receive, and expend for its purposes any appropriation or grant from the state, its political subdivisions, the federal government, or any other public or private source.

B. To assist financially with the exercise of the functions and duties provided in R.S. 51:975 and 976, state appropriations are hereby authorized in such amounts as may be necessary.

C. The funds for the operations of the consortium, over and above such funds as are now or may hereafter be made available by law or otherwise, may be appropriated by the legislature from the state general fund from year to year.

D. The books and records of the consortium shall be subject to audit by the legislative auditor.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: