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2022 Louisiana Legislative Session Update

We are roughly three weeks into the 2022 Louisiana Legislative Session. We've read over 1,000 bills to identify potential impact on the merit shop construction industry and are actively supporting the bills that advance merit shop principles, while vehemently opposing those that undermine Louisiana's progress. Additionally, we are monitoring numerous bills to ensure that any potential amendments do not hinder our industry.

Thus far, the legislators and bystanders at the capitol have been amicable. However, this friendliness is unlikely to last as the pace picks up and interests collide over how to spend Louisiana's \$3.4 billion in one-time money and committees start hearing the more controversial social bills. Furthermore, the veto override session regarding the redistricting maps is sure to ignite hot tempers. Regardless of whatever hoopla is sure to come, ABC Louisiana will focus on the fight to promote our industry and merit shop values. We have strong allies in the legislature, a solid support coalition, and a knowledgeable member base - all of which position us for a successful session.

Important Dates:

- March 30 - Legislators will enter a veto override session at noon. This session can last up to five days.
- April 5 - Deadline to introduce bills during regular session.
- April 8 - ABC of Louisiana Bill Review (see more details below)

Review of Weeks 1 & 2:

HB 221, by Representative Magee, revises public bid and quote requirements. Specifically, it requires all purchases of materials or supplies exceeding the sum of \$60,000 paid out by public funds be advertised and let by contracts to the lowest responsible bidder. It also requires that purchases exceeding the sum of \$20,000 but less than \$60,000 paid out by public funds be made by obtaining no fewer than three quotes. **HB221 passed off the House Floor with a 93-0 vote and is awaiting a committee assignment in the Senate. ABC-LA is monitoring HB 221.**

HB 230, by Representative Stuart Bishop, extends the deadline to apply for rebates in the Louisiana Quality Jobs Program. **HB 571 passed off the House Floor with a 91-0 vote and is awaiting a committee assignment in the Senate. ABC-LA is supporting HB 230.**

HB 571, by Representative Gadberry, provides the State Uniform Construction Code Council with the authority, under extraordinary circumstances, to extend the deadline to adopt new versions of the State Uniform Construction Code by one-year. **HB571 passed off the House Floor with a 94-0 vote and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce. ABC-LA is monitoring HB 571.**

HB 581, by Representative St. Blanc, modifies the Louisiana Underground Utilities and Facilities Damage Prevention Law found within La. R.S. 40:1749.11 *et seq.* The modifications add "unplanned utility outages" to the statutory definition of "emergency", revises the list of holidays observed by regional

notification centers, and reduces the timeframe whereby an excavator or demolisher must provide notice of an emergency excavation. **HB581 passed off the House Floor by a vote of 95-0 and was referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce. ABC-LA is monitoring HB 581.**

HB 598, by Representative Selders, prevents building inspectors from using discretion in determining the applicability of building codes. **HB598 reported out of the House Commerce Committee with amendments and is now awaiting a vote on the House Floor. ABC-LA is monitoring HB 598.**

HB 602, by Representative Davis, revises and reorganizes provisions of La. R.S. Title 37 regarding the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors. **HB 602 passed of the House Floor with a 97-0 vote and is awaiting a Senate committee assignment. ABC-LA is monitoring HB 602.**

Bills to watch for:

HB 487, by Representative Riser, requires a contractor for state construction projects to designate no less than 2% of man-hours in any apprenticeable occupation to registered apprentices. **ABC-LA is opposing HB 487.**

HB 710, by Representative Stefanski, redefines the requirements and procedures for the construction management at risk (CMAR) project delivery method, including the request for qualifications, selection review committee members, and all selection review committee meetings. **ABC-LA is supporting HB 710.**

HB 487 and HB 710 were both scheduled for committee hearings this week but have since been postponed due to the veto override session beginning Wednesday.

ABCLA is hosting a legislative bill review on Friday, April 8 at 9am at the ABC Pelican admin office in Baton Rouge. If you are interested in joining us please RSVP to Macie Morgan at mmorgan@abcpelican.com

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Thank you for your support of the merit shop.

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