A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in late August 2005, Hurricane Katrina came ashore in the southeastern part of the state of Louisiana, resulting in the worst natural disaster to befall the United States; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Katrina caused massive storm and wind damage in the parishes of Orleans, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard, destroying both residential and commercial property; and

WHEREAS, a number of other southeastern parishes, including Jefferson, St. Tammany, and Washington, received a great deal of damage caused by Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, four weeks later, in September 2005, another strong storm, Hurricane Rita, came ashore in the southwestern part of the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Rita devastated Cameron Parish and caused widespread damage in Calcasieu, Vermilion, and other coastal parishes and caused additional damage to portions of the southeastern part of the state already ravaged by Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, damage caused to property by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita has caused the displacement of thousands of the state's residents, many living in temporary housing and

CAPITAL OUTLAY: Directs the commissioner of administration to put a freeze on the awarding of contracts and the expenditure of State General Fund (Direct) appropriations contained in Act 26 of the 2005 Regular Session of the Legislature.
many of them located in other states, and the disruption of over eighty thousand businesses
which generate tax revenues to state and local governments and which businesses are the
backbone of the economy of this state; and

WHEREAS, the storms have caused the loss of over one-third of the state's tax
revenues and severely disrupted oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Revenue Estimating Conference recently adopted an official
revenue forecast for the current fiscal year reflecting a nine hundred seventy million dollar
decrease in state general fund revenues; and

WHEREAS, the state's economists stated that their estimates are derived from very
preliminary data and that the decrease in revenues could eventually be much greater; and

WHEREAS, in response to the revisions to the official forecast of the Revenue
Estimating Conference, the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget has certified that the
state has a general fund deficit in excess of nine hundred fifty-nine million dollars, which
deficit must be eliminated as required by the Constitution of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, state government is facing massive reductions in expenditures in order
to deal with the budget deficit; and

WHEREAS, Act 26 of the 2005 Regular Session, the duly enacted Capital Outlay
Act for Fiscal Year 2005-2006, contains State General Fund (Direct) appropriations in the
amount of eleven million nine hundred ninety-two thousand five hundred dollars; and

WHEREAS, the governor has issued an executive order requiring state agencies to
reduce expenditures in all areas of state government by an amount in excess of five hundred
million dollars; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to take aggressive action to address the financial crises
faced by the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
direct the commissioner of administration to freeze the award of contracts for State General
Fund (Direct) appropriated projects contained in Act 26 of the 2005 Regular Session of the
Louisiana Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct
the commissioner of administration to freeze the expenditure of State General Fund (Direct)
appropriations which are unobligated and unexpended contained in Act 26 of the 2005
Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
to the commissioner of administration.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument.

Hebert HCR No. 51

Directs the commissioner of administration to put a freeze on the award of contracts and the
expenditure of State General Fund (Direct) appropriations contained in Act 26 of the 2005
R.S.