

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 84

BY SENATOR SEABAUGH AND REPRESENTATIVE BAMBURG

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Conservation and Energy, in consultation with the United States Geological Survey, to create the Earthquake Task Force to study seismic activity in Red River, Bienville, Caddo, DeSoto, and Natchitoches parishes and to develop a multipurpose plan for monitoring seismicity in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, seismic activity has been reported in and around Red River, Bienville, Caddo, DeSoto, and Natchitoches parishes in recent months, including earthquakes of sufficient magnitude to be felt by residents, damage property, and be detected by regional and national seismic monitoring networks; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Conservation and Energy has cooperated with the Red River Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and other entities to monitor the situation and coordinate an appropriate response; and

WHEREAS, earthquakes arise from a variety of natural processes, including movement along subsurface faults, regional geologic stresses, and other naturally occurring structural processes; and

WHEREAS, seismic events may originate at varying depths and at a distance from potential contributing factors; and

WHEREAS, the scientific literature recognizes that certain human activities may in some circumstances contribute to or trigger seismic activity; and

WHEREAS, earthquakes of only moderate magnitude have the potential to threaten the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Louisiana and may result in damage to homes, infrastructure, public facilities, pipelines, transportation systems, and other property; and

WHEREAS, understanding the geologic structures, fault systems, subsurface conditions, and potential human influences associated with seismic activity is essential to assessing risks and protecting public safety; and

WHEREAS, the precise causes, frequency, distribution, and magnitude of seismic events in Red River Parish and surrounding regions have not been fully studied or

documented through a comprehensive scientific investigation; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Conservation and Energy has begun coordinating with the United States Geological Survey and universities throughout the state to gather scientific data and determine the location, orientation, depth, and extent of active faults, improve ground shaking models, and consider possible causes of the recent seismic activity; and

WHEREAS, with the participation of local legislators and landowners in the region, the United States Geological Survey has installed initial seismic monitoring equipment in the Red River Parish region and may deploy additional instruments to improve the ability to detect, locate, and analyze seismic activity; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Conservation and Energy, the United States Geological Survey, and Tulane University have conducted investigations and site visits to collect and analyze data related to potential contributing factors to recent earthquakes, including subsurface geologic conditions, nearby faults, and injection volumes associated with regulated activities; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana presently lacks a seismic monitoring network to provide location data in near real time, and has no mechanism to facilitate expert assessment of earthquake activity and causal factors in the state; and

WHEREAS, enhanced seismic monitoring and scientific analysis are essential in determining the source and characteristics of earthquake activity in the region and in developing recommendations to improve prediction, preparedness, and mitigation of potential seismic hazards; and

WHEREAS, cooperation between state and federal scientific agencies would expedite a determination of causes and characteristics and aid in developing recommendations for moving forward.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Conservation and Energy, in consultation with Tulane University and the United States Geological Survey, to gather all available data and study the causes and characteristics of seismic activity in the Red River Parish region, and to propose recommendations by written report to the legislature and to the David R. Poynter

Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than February 1, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the secretary of the Department of Conservation and Energy to create the Earthquake Task Force to evaluate the requirements and make recommendations for a multipurpose state-wide seismic monitoring network, to consist of the following members:

(1) The secretary of the Department of Conservation and Energy, or his designee.

(2) The associate director of the United States Geological Survey, Natural Hazards Mission Area, or his designee.

(3) The dean of the Tulane University School of Science and Engineering, or his designee.

(4) The director of the Red River Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, or his designee.

(5) The secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, or her designee.

(6) The chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, or his designee.

(7) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, or his designee.

(8) The director of the Louisiana Geological Survey, Louisiana State University, or her designee.

(9) The president of the Louisiana Landowners Association, or his designee.

(10) One member appointed by the governor to represent the oil and gas industry.

(11) One member appointed by the governor to represent industrial waste injection facilities.

(12) One member appointed by the governor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the names of appointees and designees shall be submitted to the secretary of the Department of Conservation and Energy no later than August 15, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force shall convene for its first meeting no later than September 15, 2026, at the call of the secretary of the Department of Conservation and Energy, and at the first meeting, the members shall elect a chairman and other officers as the task force may deem appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report of the Earthquake Task Force shall be presented at a duly noticed public meeting, which shall be held in Red River Parish, no later than March 1, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on the date of the presentation of its report or March 1, 2027, whichever occurs first.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Conservation and Energy, the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, and the director and the associate director for Natural Hazards of the United States Geological Survey.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES