

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 344

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHAMERHORN

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Conservation and Energy, in consultation with the United States Geological Survey, to study seismic activity in Red River, Sabine, De Soto, Caddo, Bienville, and Natchitoches Parishes, to develop a seismic monitoring strategy for Louisiana, and to present a written report of its findings to the House of Representatives.

WHEREAS, seismic activity has been reported in and around De Soto, Caddo, Sabine, Natchitoches, Bienville, and Red River 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, 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 distances from areas in which potential contributing factors are located; 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 Northwest Louisiana and elsewhere in the state 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, to improve ground shaking models, and to 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 Northwest Louisiana 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 does not presently have a seismic monitoring network that provides locations in near real time, nor a mechanism to bring together experts to assess earthquake activity and causal factors in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, preliminary investigations have not identified any specific causal connection between the seismic activity and specific industrial or subsurface operations; and

WHEREAS, enhanced seismic monitoring and scientific analysis is essential and may assist 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 House of Representatives of 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 evaluate needs for a multipurpose state-wide seismic monitoring network.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Conservation and Energy shall submit its findings by written report to the House of Representatives no later than February 1, 2027.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES