

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 345

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHAMERHORN

A RESOLUTION

To create the Task Force on Seismic Activity to study the prevalence and cause of earthquakes in North Louisiana, to propose written recommendations to the legislature, and to present its findings to the public at a duly noticed public meeting.

WHEREAS, seismic activity has been reported in and around DeSoto, 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, 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 are 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, cooperation between state and federal scientific agencies would expedite a determination of causes and characteristics and aid in developing recommendations for the future.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish and provide for the Task Force on Seismic Activity to study the prevalence and cause of earthquakes in North Louisiana, and may propose recommendations, together with specific proposals for legislation. Any recommendations or proposals shall be submitted by written report to the legislature and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Conservation and Energy or his designee, who shall serve as the chairman.

(2) The associate director of the United States Geological Survey, natural hazards or his designee, who shall serve as an ex officio member.

(3) The dean of Tulane University, school of science and engineering, or his designee.

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

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

(6) The president of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, or his designee.

(7) The acting director of the Louisiana Geological Survey, Louisiana State University, or his designee.

(8) A representative of the oil and gas industry, appointed by the governor.

(9) A representative of an industrial waste injection facility, appointed by the governor.

(10) A representative of a carbon capture and underground storage facility, appointed by the governor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit the names of any designees to the task force to the representative from the Department of Conservation and Energy no later than August 15, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the representative of the Department of Conservation and Energy shall serve as chairman of the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall convene its first meeting no later than September 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be staffed by the Department of Conservation and Energy.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Rules of Order of the House of Representatives or applicable Joint Rules shall apply to all meetings of the task force.

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 meetings of the task force shall be subject to the Open Meetings Law, R.S. 42:11 et seq., and records of the task force shall be subject to the Public Records Law, R.S. 44:1 et seq.

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 Northwest Louisiana no later than March 1, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the governor of Louisiana, 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 United States Geological Survey, the Dean of the School of Science and Engineering at Tulane University, the director of the Red River Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the president of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, and the acting director of the Louisiana Geological Survey at Louisiana State University.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES