

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 374

BY REPRESENTATIVE FIRMENT

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Conservation and Energy to study cooperative endeavor agreements for the withdrawal of surface water and provide a written summary of their findings to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment prior to the convening of the 2027 Regular Session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana finds and declares that the surface waters of the state of Louisiana are among its most valuable natural resources and are essential to the state's economy, environment, public safety, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana further finds that the responsible management of surface water resources requires a balanced approach that supports economic development while ensuring the long-term sustainability and usability of the state's waterways; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes that invasive aquatic vegetation and species including but not limited to giant salvinia, water hyacinth, and hydrilla pose a significant and growing threat to Louisiana's lakes, rivers, and other water bodies by impairing navigation, increasing flood risk, degrading wildlife habitat, and limiting public access; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana further finds that aquatic vegetation overgrowth and invasive species infestations can render water bodies unusable for commerce, recreation, and resource management if not effectively controlled; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana intends to:

(1) Ensure that the use and withdrawal of surface water resources contributes to the preservation and maintenance of those resources.

(2) Support a statewide, coordinated approach to aquatic vegetation management and invasive species control.

(3) Provide for research, monitoring, and long-term management strategies to address invasive aquatic species.

(4) Establish sustainable funding mechanisms to assist in the protection and restoration of Louisiana's waterways for the benefit of present and future generations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Conservation and Energy to study cooperative endeavor agreements for the withdrawal of surface water including consideration of the four enumerated intentions of the House of Representatives as expressed in this Resolution and provide a written summary of their findings to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment at least thirty days prior to the convening of the 2027 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the secretary of the Department of Conservation and Energy.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES