

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 113

BY REPRESENTATIVE CONNICK

AGRICULTURE: Urges and requests the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, in collaboration with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center and Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, to study the feasibility of promoting the growth, production, and use of organic produce in this state

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, in collaboration with the
3 Louisiana State University Agricultural Center and Southern University Agricultural
4 Research and Extension Center, to study the feasibility of promoting the growth,
5 production, and use of organic produce in this state.

6 WHEREAS, Louisiana is losing revenue, taxes, jobs, and current and future
7 infrastructure because the state is not growing food for the local market; and

8 WHEREAS, Louisiana is also facing a public health crisis because of the foods
9 residents eat; and

10 WHEREAS, Louisiana is not regionally competitive in the local, school lunch,
11 organic, grass-fed cattle and dairy industry, or the small grains and brewers markets; instead,
12 Louisiana consumers, such as, bakers, butchers, brewers, markets, chefs, and schools,
13 purchase food that is grown outside of the state; and

14 WHEREAS, locally grown food, protected in a secure and direct market supply
15 chain, ensures our bio-security from certain threats like terrorism, war, and natural disasters;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, due to an immense generational shift in Louisiana, millennials are the
18 largest generation ever and they prefer locally grown food, which they are willing to pay a
19 premium for with their tremendous buying power; and

1 WHEREAS, Louisiana's agricultural community can choose to embrace or eschew
2 this local market, but many facets of our economy will suffer if Louisiana does not begin the
3 commitment to locally grown agricultural products; and

4 WHEREAS, a goal of this study is the establishment of a local and sustainable
5 agriculture department within the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center or the
6 Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center to study the seeds, markets,
7 cultures, consumers, and barriers to state markets, to research local preference programs, and
8 to research and expand the School Lunch Louisiana Program; and

9 WHEREAS, an additional goal of this study is the establishment of a Louisiana Food
10 Policy Council that will meet annually with the commissioner of the Department of
11 Agriculture and Forestry, the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, the Southern
12 University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, and constituents such as chefs,
13 brewers, public health officials, doctors, millers, students, and other members of the general
14 public to: make policy recommendations for legislative sessions; establish an at-large
15 agricultural liaison between the division of administration, Louisiana State University,
16 Southern University, the Governor's office, and members of the general public; work with
17 appropriate legislative committees, including the House and Senate committees on
18 agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, and rural development, on legislation and policy
19 directives; and maintain the lawful, federal requirement that the Louisiana State University
20 Agricultural Center and the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center
21 provide research and recommendations for all constituents in their districts.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
23 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Agriculture and
24 Forestry, in collaboration with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center and the
25 Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, to study the feasibility of
26 promoting the growth, production, and use of organic produce in this state, the establishment
27 of a local and sustainable agriculture department within the Louisiana State University
28 Agricultural Center or the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center,
29 and the establishment of a Louisiana Food Policy Council.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall submit a written report of
2 its findings and recommendations to the House and Senate committees on agriculture,
3 forestry, aquaculture, and rural development by February 1, 2018.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
5 commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the dean of the Louisiana State
6 University Agricultural Center, and the chancellor-dean of the Southern University
7 Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 113 Original

2017 Regular Session

Connick

Urges and requests the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry, in collaboration with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center and the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, to study the feasibility of promoting the growth, production, and use of organic produce in this state. Requires the department submit a report to the House and Senate committees on agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, and rural development by Feb. 1, 2018.