

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOLLIS

WATER/SEWER OPERATORS: Creates the Sanitary Sewer Systems Overflows Commission

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create the Sanitary Sewer Systems Overflows Commission to study and make  
3 recommendations on actions necessary to timely report, reduce, and eliminate  
4 sewage overflows.

5 WHEREAS, a sanitary sewer overflow occurs when there is an overflow, spill, or  
6 release of raw or partially treated sewage from a sanitary sewer collection system out of  
7 manholes and onto city streets, playgrounds, and into streams, before it reaches a sewage  
8 treatment plant; and

9 WHEREAS, the federal Clean Water Act and the Louisiana Environmental Quality  
10 Act prohibit such discharges of pollutants and also require proper operation and maintenance  
11 of sewage collection systems and treatment facilities; and

12 WHEREAS, people may come into contact with released raw sewage through  
13 swimming and fishing, in neighborhoods from flooding streets, and through contaminated  
14 drinking water; and

15 WHEREAS, contact with raw sewage exposes people to a variety of pathogenic  
16 microorganisms, viruses, and intestinal worms and can lead to illnesses such as cholera,  
17 dysentery, hepatitis, and gastroenteritis; and

18 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency estimates that there  
19 are twenty-thousand separate sanitary sewer systems in this country with thousands of  
20 overflows occurring each year; and

1           WHEREAS, plans for all sewage systems are approved by the state health officer in  
2 the Louisiana Department of Health prior to construction; and

3           WHEREAS, permit terms and conditions require wastewater treatment systems to  
4 report such overflows to the Department of Environmental Quality.

5           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
6 create the Sanitary Sewer Systems Overflows Commission to study and make  
7 recommendations on actions necessary to timely report, reduce, and eliminate sewage  
8 overflows.

9           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall be comprised of the  
10 following members:

11           (1) One member shall be a member of the House of Representatives appointed by  
12 the speaker of the House and who shall serve as chairman of the commission.

13           (2) One member shall be a member of the Senate appointed by the president of the  
14 Senate and who shall serve as vice chairman of the commission.

15           (3) One member shall be the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality,  
16 or his designee.

17           (4) One member shall be the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, or her  
18 designee.

19           (5) One member shall be the executive director of the Louisiana Rural Water  
20 Association, or his designee.

21           (6) One member shall be the executive director of the Louisiana Municipal  
22 Association, or his designee.

23           (7) One member shall be the executive director of the Police Jury Association of  
24 Louisiana, or his designee.

25           (8) One member shall be the executive director of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin  
26 Foundation, or his designee.

27           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the commission shall not be  
28 compensated for their service on the commission but may seek travel reimbursements from  
29 their respective agencies. A majority of the membership is necessary for a quorum.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall submit recommendations  
 2 to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, the House Committee on  
 3 Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs, the  
 4 Senate Committee on Environmental Quality, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare,  
 5 and the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs no later than March 1, 2019.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall terminate on March 1,  
 7 2019.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
 9 to the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, the secretary of the Louisiana  
 10 Department of Health, the executive director of the Louisiana Rural Water Association, the  
 11 executive director of the Louisiana Municipal Association, the executive director of the Lake  
 12 Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, and the executive director of the Police Jury Association  
 13 of Louisiana.

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#### 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)]

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HCR 1 Reengrossed

2018 Regular Session

Hollis

Creates the Sanitary Sewer Systems Overflows Commission to study and make recommendations on actions necessary to timely report, reduce, and eliminate sewage overflows. Requires recommendations be submitted to oversight committees no later than March 1, 2019. Provides that the commission terminates on March 1, 2019.

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the original bill:

1. Add the executive director of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, or his designee, as a member.

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the engrossed bill:

1. Add provisions to terminate the commission on March 1, 2019.