

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 168

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

AGRICULTURE/FOREST DEPT: Urges and requests the Department of Agriculture to study the economic impact of current and potential rules and regulations regarding forest crops

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Agriculture to study the economic impact of current
3 and potential rules and regulations regarding forest crops, including but not limited
4 to statutory provisions and local ordinances.

5 WHEREAS, forest crops are the number one agricultural commodity in Louisiana,
6 with an economic value of \$3.6 billion; and

7 WHEREAS, the forest products industry is Louisiana's second largest manufacturing
8 employer, with over nine hundred firms in forty-five parishes directly employing over
9 twenty-five thousand people; and

10 WHEREAS, an additional eight thousand people are employed in the harvesting and
11 transportation of forest crops; and

12 WHEREAS, forest land owners currently pay timber severance taxes and property
13 taxes as provided for in Article VII, Section (4)(B) and Article VII, Section (18)(C) of the
14 Constitution of Louisiana; and

15 WHEREAS, seventy-five percent of the timber severance tax is remitted to the
16 governing authority of the parish in which severance or production occurs and may be used
17 to repair roads utilized by companies harvesting and transporting forest crops in the parish;
18 and

1 WHEREAS, in addition to property and severance taxes, some parishes further
2 require forest land owners and companies harvesting and transporting forest crops to pay
3 road bonds and permit fees; and

4 WHEREAS, parishes requiring companies harvesting and transporting forest crops
5 to purchase additional liability bonds and certificates of insurance and permit fees for
6 hauling trucks can act as a deterrent for companies to perform work in the parish; and

7 WHEREAS, the combination of these taxes and fees creates a potentially disastrous
8 effect on the forest industry's ability to operate, create jobs, and generate revenue for local
9 governments and the state.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
11 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the Department of Agriculture to study the
12 economic impact of current and potential rules and regulations regarding forest crops,
13 including but not limited to statutory provisions and local ordinances which create or
14 increase bond requirements and permit fees, and submit a report of its findings and
15 recommendations to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana no later
16 than February 1, 2019.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
18 commissioner of the Department of Agriculture.

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 168 Original

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McFarland

Urges and requests the Dept. of Agriculture to study the economic impact of current and potential rules and regulations regarding forest crops. Requires the Dept. of Agriculture to report its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana by Feb. 1, 2019.