

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 320

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAY MORRIS

TRANSPORTATION DEPT: Urges and requests the Department of Transportation and Development to dedicate a portion of the economic damage proceeds from the Deepwater Horizon litigation to Northeast Louisiana

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to dedicate the
3 economic damage proceeds from the Deepwater Horizon litigation allocated to the
4 On-System Bridge Program for replacement and rehabilitation program for highway
5 bridges on any federal-aid system over waterways, other topographical barriers, other
6 highways, and railroads and for replacement and rehabilitation of highway bridges
7 on state highways that are ineligible for federal highway funding assistance to
8 Northeast Louisiana.

9 WHEREAS, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill leaked four million one hundred
10 thousand barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico making it the worst spill in United States
11 history; and

12 WHEREAS, the economic impact of the spill was far reaching affecting the fishing
13 and tourism industries and requiring several billion dollars in clean-up costs; and

14 WHEREAS, Louisiana has received the largest amount of reparation payments to
15 compensate for economic damage and lost income, almost two billion six hundred thirty-six
16 thousand dollars; and

17 WHEREAS, the Deepwater Horizon Economic Damages Collection Fund was
18 established in the state treasury as a special permanent trust fund; and

1 WHEREAS, all economic damages proceeds from the Deepwater Horizon litigation
2 in excess of the first two hundred million dollars deposited in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016
3 Deficit Elimination Fund shall be deposited by the state treasurer; and

4 WHEREAS, beginning July 1, 2021, and each fiscal year thereafter through and
5 including Fiscal Year 2034, in such amounts as remain after payment of amounts due on
6 bonds and related expenses as provided in the documents pursuant to which bonds were
7 issued, the state treasurer is required to immediately transfer the annual payments of fifty-
8 three million three hundred thirty-three thousand three hundred thirty-three dollars to the
9 Construction Subfund of the Transportation Trust Fund; and

10 WHEREAS, the economic damage proceeds and the bonds issued by the State Bond
11 Commission shall be issued, after paying the costs associated with the issuance of the bonds,
12 solely and exclusively for certain projects in specified amounts; and

13 WHEREAS, twenty-five million dollars per year, for a total of one hundred fifty
14 million dollars, was dedicated to Phase Two of the Louisiana 1 Improvement Project
15 between Golden Meadow, Louisiana and Leesville, Louisiana for Fiscal Years 2021-2026;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, one hundred twenty-five million dollars was dedicated to the Louisiana
18 415 Bridge at the Intracoastal Canal; and

19 WHEREAS, one hundred fifty million dollars was dedicated to Interstate 49 South;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, fifty million dollars was dedicated to Louisiana Highway 3241 from
22 Interstate 12 to Bush, Louisiana; and

23 WHEREAS, one hundred million dollars was dedicated to the construction of two
24 additional lanes for the Jimmy Davis Bridge (Louisiana Highway 511) and repair of the
25 existing bridge; and

26 WHEREAS, twenty million dollars was dedicated to the acquisition of a new
27 Cameron Parish ferry; and

28 WHEREAS, forty million dollars was dedicated to the On-System Bridge Program
29 for the replacement and rehabilitation program for highway bridges on any federal-aid
30 system over waterways, other topographical barriers, other highways, and railroads and for

1 replacement and rehabilitation of highway bridges on state highways that are ineligible for
2 federal highway funding assistance; and

3 WHEREAS, nineteen million dollars was dedicated to Phase I and II of the
4 Sugarhouse Road Extension/Eddie Williams Boulevard to Louisiana Highway 43 Highway
5 1 project; and

6 WHEREAS, twenty million dollars was dedicated to the acquisition of two cranes
7 for the Port of New Orleans; and

8 WHEREAS, fifteen million dollars was dedicated to the Hooper Road Widening
9 from Louisiana Highway 3034 to Louisiana Highway 37; and

10 WHEREAS, a portion of the economic damage proceeds were allocated to benefit
11 a project in every area of the state, except Northeast Louisiana; and

12 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Development should dedicate the
13 forty million dollars of economic damage proceeds allocated to the On-System Bridge
14 Program for replacement and rehabilitation program for highway bridges on any federal-aid
15 system over waterways, other topographical barriers, other highways, and railroads and for
16 replacement and rehabilitation of highway bridges on state highways that are ineligible for
17 federal highway funding assistance to Northeast Louisiana to ensure the infrastructure needs
18 of that area of the state are addressed.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
20 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and
21 Development to dedicate the forty million dollars of the economic damage proceeds from
22 the Deepwater Horizon litigation allocated to the On-System Bridge Program for
23 replacement and rehabilitation program for highway bridges on any federal-aid system over
24 waterways, other topographical barriers, other highways, and railroads and for replacement
25 and rehabilitation of highway bridges on state highways that are ineligible for federal
26 highway funding assistance to Northeast Louisiana.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
28 secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

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 320 Original

2019 Regular Session

Jay Morris

Urges and requests the Dept. of Transportation and Development to dedicate the portion of the economic damage proceeds from the Deepwater Horizon litigation allocated to the On-System Bridge Program for replacement and rehabilitation program for highway bridges on any federal-aid system over waterways, other topographical barriers, other highways, and railroads and for replacement and rehabilitation of highway bridges on state highways that are ineligible for federal highway funding assistance to Northeast La.