SLS 21RS-289 **ORIGINAL**

2021 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY SENATOR HEWITT

COASTAL RESOURCES. Requests the Department of Natural Resources, office of coastal management, to review permitting cycle times and to make recommendations to expedite the permitting process.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Natural Resources, office of coastal management, to review permitting cycle times and to report recommendations on regulatory and statutory changes to expedite the permitting process.

WHEREAS, since the Coastal Zone Management Act was enacted by the Louisiana Legislature in 1978, the state of Louisiana has issued more than thirty thousand coastal use permits to authorize and encourage the safe and responsible development of oil and natural gas resources throughout Louisiana's working coast; and

WHEREAS, coastal use permit timelines in the coastal zone of Louisiana range from four to thirteen months while in neighboring Texas the same process takes significantly less time; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has no mandate to cap the amount of time the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has to process any permits; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana agencies that receive permits from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers are under no mandated timeline and have no ability to expedite the response; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has multiple state agencies involved in the permitting process; and

WHEREAS, oil and gas exploration in Louisiana is extremely inhibited due to the

lengthy permitting process; and

WHEREAS, delays in permitting often kill or otherwise adversely affect projects due to the impacts on the project economics; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana projects often compete with projects in Texas which have quicker permitting cycles and a fee schedule for expedited processing; and

WHEREAS, today, the development of Louisiana's vast oil and natural resources support over two-hundred sixty thousand high paying jobs and contributes more than two billion in annual state revenues; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana oil and natural gas companies also generated more than two-hundred thirty million dollars in direct funding for coastal restoration and hurricane protection projects over the last five years; and

WHEREAS, the production of oil and natural gas is essential to the economy and well-being of Louisiana and the United States, and addressing the critical energy needs of the state and country requires cooperation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Natural Resources, office of coastal management, to review permitting cycle times over the previous five years, review permitting cycle times in Texas, and to report to the Legislature no later than December 31, 2021, with findings and specific recommendations of regulatory and statutory changes to expedite the permitting process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Natural Resources.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Tyler S. McCloud.

DIGEST

SCR 34 Original 2021 Regular Session Hewitt

Requests the Department of Natural Resources, office of coastal management, to review permitting cycle times over the previous five years, review permitting cycle times in Texas, and to report to the Legislature no later than December 31, 2021, with findings and specific recommendations of regulatory and statutory changes to expedite the permitting process.