

1 WHEREAS, the Louisiana portion of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley of the Lower
2 Mississippi Valley Joint Venture has a total duck-energy day objective of one-hundred
3 twenty million nine hundred thousand duck-energy days based on a one hundred ten day
4 wintering period from early November to late February; and

5 WHEREAS, Louisiana supports over half of the breeding population of western gulf
6 coast mottled ducks; and

7 WHEREAS, over four hundred seventy-five thousand acres of rice were planted by
8 Louisiana farmers in 2020, down from a high of six hundred seventy thousand acres in 1981;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the Gulf Coast Joint Venture has also determined that coastal marshes
11 in the CPIA and MRCWIA are deficient in providing habitat to support their waterfowl
12 population objectives; and

13 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) owns and
14 manages more than one million six hundred thousand acres of Louisiana's land and
15 waterways as wildlife management areas, refuges, and conservation areas; and

16 WHEREAS, the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior of the
17 United States (FWS) manages twenty three national wildlife refuges within Louisiana,
18 covering more than five hundred fifty thousand acres throughout twenty-nine parishes; and

19 WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States
20 Department of Agriculture (NRCS) has a long record of working with private landowners
21 to implement conservation practices and programs for the benefit of Louisiana's farms,
22 wetlands, and wildlife habitats, and

23 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Waterfowl Working Group (LWWG) is comprised of a
24 diverse group of landowners, managers, business owners, and professionals who share a
25 common interest and concern over the direction Louisiana's waterfowl stock is heading; and

26 WHEREAS, the LWWG's mission is to ensure that waterfowl habitat remains a focal
27 point for policy makers and stakeholders at all levels.

28 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
29 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the National Resources
30 Conservation Service, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to collaborate and

1 contribute their knowledge and expertise with the Louisiana Waterfowl Working Group in
2 an effort to improve waterfowl habitats on private, state, and federally owned lands.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWWG shall submit a written report to the
4 House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and Senate Committee on Natural
5 Resources by March 1, 2022, detailing the results of its collaborative efforts to improve
6 waterfowl habitats on private, state, and federally owned lands.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report should consider meaningful updates
8 on habitat trends, policy recommendations, and other relevant topics related to Louisiana
9 waterfowl, and the habitats they depend upon.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
11 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Natural Resources
12 Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, Louisiana State
13 Conservationist, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Region 4 Director, and the
14 officers of both houses of the United States Congress and each member of the Louisiana
15 congressional delegation.

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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Coussan

Urges and requests the La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to collaborate and contribute their knowledge and expertise with the La. Waterfowl Working Group in an effort to improve waterfowl habitats on private, state, and federally owned lands. Requires the La. Waterfowl Working Group submit a written report to the House and Senate natural resources committees by March 1, 2022, detailing its findings.