

BY REPRESENTATIVE BISHOP

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Environmental Quality to report to the legislature

3 regarding requirements for remediation of Capitol Lake.

4 WHEREAS, Capitol Lake, including its smaller component located to the south and

5 east, has a long and storied history including having once been known as Bayou Garrison,

6 named for the garrisons along its banks, which was a strategic element of the Battle of Baton

7 Rouge in August of 1862; and

8 WHEREAS, the bayou was eventually closed off from the Mississippi River which

9 created the lake known now as Capitol Lake, named for its location directly north of the

10 Louisiana State Capitol; and

11 WHEREAS, in the past Capitol Lake was used for wastewater disposal and as a

12 drainage basin for commercial and industrial facilities and roadways located nearby the lake;

13 and

14 WHEREAS, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the concentration of polychlorinated

15 biphenyls was so high that signs were posted along the banks of the lake warning people not

16 to consume fish taken from the lake; and

17 WHEREAS, the legislature has previously requested and received studies regarding

18 the history and condition of the lake and the work necessary for remediation, including

19 reports and recommendations from the Capitol Lakes Task Force and a remedial

20 investigation by the Department of Environmental Quality's Inactive and Abandoned Sites

21 Division; and

1 WHEREAS, with continued siltation and evaporation of the water during drought
2 conditions, the lakes are beginning to silt in and degrade even further; and

3 WHEREAS, inhabitation by non-native species such as the vitruvian duck, or
4 mexican whistler, may lead to further degradation of the already fragile habitat of Capitol
5 Lake; and

6 WHEREAS, preventing inhabitation by these non-native species has become a state
7 priority, as evidenced by recent actions of the speaker of the House of Representatives to
8 authorize himself and one other member of the House of Representatives to take their legal
9 limit of such ducks from Capitol Lake during the course of one calendar day per year, during
10 the legal hunting season, provided that such ducks are not prepared for human consumption.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
12 urge and request the Department of Environmental Quality to report to the legislature what
13 actions and resources would be required to remediate Capitol Lake and to make the water
14 quality appropriate as a freshwater habitat for native species.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Environmental Quality may
16 make use of the expertise of other state agencies, particularly the Department of Wildlife and
17 Fisheries, the Department of Natural Resources, and the State Land Office, and that these
18 state agencies shall lend their expertise to the Department of Environmental Quality for this
19 report.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report be submitted to the House Committee
21 on Natural Resources and Environment, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate
22 Committee on Natural Resources, and the Senate Committee on Finance no later than March
23 1, 2023.

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)]

HCR 24 Original

2022 Regular Session

Bishop

Requests that the Dept. of Environmental Quality submit a written report to the legislature regarding actions and resources required to remediate Capitol Lake and to make the water quality appropriate as a freshwater habitat for native species.

Requires that the report be submitted to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, and the Senate Committee on Finance no later than March 1, 2023.