SLS 22RS-812 ORIGINAL

2022 Regular Session

1

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY SENATOR LAMBERT

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL. Request the Department of Environmental Quality to study strategies for recycling plastic containers.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

| 2 | To urge and request the Department of Environmental Quality to study and make |
|----|---|
| 3 | recommendations for strategies to increase the recycling of plastic containers. |
| 4 | WHEREAS, economic development and people's changing patterns of consumption |
| 5 | and production have led to a drastic increase in plastic wastes, in particular plastic containers |
| 6 | for beverages, in Louisiana as it has across the globe; and |
| 7 | WHEREAS, the lack of adequate recycling of plastic waste harms the environment |
| 8 | and poses threat to human health, and therefore, there is great desire to reduce plastic wastes; |
| 9 | and |
| 10 | WHEREAS, a large portion of litter is composed of plastic containers that negatively |
| 11 | effects our environment, our communities, and our economy; and |
| 12 | WHEREAS, this litter directly impacts the environment through habitat destruction |
| 13 | in marine and aquatic ecosystems, largely through storm water runoff, and to pet and wildlife |
| 14 | injury and death due to litter entanglement, toxicity, and ingestion; and |
| 15 | WHEREAS, waste plastic containers are a breeding ground for vermin and |
| 16 | disease-causing bacteria; and |
| 17 | WHEREAS, according to a study commissioned by Keep Louisiana Beautiful, the |
| 18 | direct economic impact of paying to have litter collected and disposed of costs local and |

ORIGINAL SCR NO 13

state government forty million dollars per year; and

WHEREAS, this forty-million-dollar-per-year price tag is in addition to other direct costs incurred for enforcing litter laws and developing programs and advertisements encouraging and educating citizens on the dangers of litter and the indirect economic impacts including real estate devaluation, loss of new industry and business, and loss of tourism and ecotourism; and

WHEREAS, a strategy to consider is the implementation of a bottle deposit and redemption program by statute, similar to those in Vermont, Oregon, New York, Michigan, Massachusetts, Maine, Iowa, Hawaii, Connecticut, California, and Guam, that would reduce litter and create a steady and reliable stream of plastics for recycling; and

WHEREAS, this stream of plastics would further make the construction and operation of advanced recycling facilities, provided for in Act No. 460 of the 2021 R.S., economically feasible by supplying constant material for processing back into basic components to manufacture into new products and thereby keep plastic containers from becoming litter on our otherwise scenic roadways and waterways; and

WHEREAS, the recycling facilities would have the additional benefit of creating additional jobs and economic opportunities for our citizens and businesses.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Environmental Quality, in consultation with any governmental entity or nongovernmental organization the department finds useful or necessary, to study strategies to increase the recycling of plastic containers and to report recommendations to the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality and the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment by March 10, 2023.

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

SLS 22RS-812 ORIGINAL SCR NO. 13

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

DIGEST 2022 Regular Session

SCR 13 Original

Lambert

Requests the Dept. of Environmental Quality to study strategies to increase the recycling of plastic containers and to report recommendations to the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality and the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment by March 10, 2023.