

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY REPRESENTATIVES BISHOP, ADAMS, BACALA, BAGLEY, BEAULLIEU, BOURRIAQUE, BOYD, BRASS, BROWN, BRYANT, BUTLER, CARRIER, ROBBY CARTER, WILFORD CARTER, CORMIER, COUSSAN, COX, CREWS, DAVIS, DUBUISSON, DUPLESSIS, EDMONDS, FISHER, FONTENOT, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, GADBERRY, GAINES, GAROFALO, GLOVER, GOUDEAU, GREEN, HILFERTY, HODGES, HOLLIS, HORTON, HUGHES, ILLG, IVEY, JENKINS, TRAVIS JOHNSON, JORDAN, KERNER, LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MARCELLE, MCKNIGHT, MCMAHEN, MIGUEZ, DUSTIN MILLER, GREGORY MILLER, NEWELL, ROBERT OWEN, PHELPS, PIERRE, SCHAMERHORN, SCHEXNAYDER, SELDERS, ST. BLANC, THOMPSON, WILLARD, AND WRIGHT

WATERWAYS/LAKES: Urges and requests that the Department of Environmental Quality report to the legislature regarding Capitol Lake remediation

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

1 WHEREAS, the legislature has previously requested and received studies regarding
2 the history and condition of the lake and the work necessary for remediation, including
3 reports and recommendations from the Capitol Lakes Task Force and a remedial
4 investigation by the Department of Environmental Quality's Inactive and Abandoned Sites
5 Division.; and

6 WHEREAS, with continued siltation and evaporation of the water during drought
7 conditions, the lakes are beginning to silt in and degrade even further.

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

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

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report be submitted to the House Committee
18 on Natural Resources and Environment, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate
19 Committee on Natural Resources, and the Senate Committee on Finance no later than March
20 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 Reengrossed

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.

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.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Remove provisions relative to non-native species, including the vitruvian duck, or mexican whistler.
2. Remove provisions regarding duck hunting on Capitol Lake.