

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 AND SENATORS CONNICK, HENSGENS, HEWITT, LAMBERT, FRED MILLS, POPE, AND PRICE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Environmental Quality to report to the legislature regarding requirements for remediation of Capitol Lake.

WHEREAS, Capitol Lake, including its smaller component located to the south and east, has a long and storied history including having once been known as Bayou Garrison, named for the garrisons along its banks, which was a strategic element of the Battle of Baton Rouge in August of 1862; and

WHEREAS, the bayou was eventually closed off from the Mississippi River which created the lake known now as Capitol Lake, named for its location directly north of the Louisiana State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, in the past Capitol Lake was used for wastewater disposal and as a drainage basin for commercial and industrial facilities and roadways located nearby the lake; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the concentration of polychlorinated biphenyls was so high that signs were posted along the banks of the lake warning people not to consume fish taken from the lake; and

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 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.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE