

1 WHEREAS, as the result of economic benefit for one landowner and economic
2 incentives for businesses to create very few jobs, agricultural heritage areas may be subject
3 to negative impacts for future generations; and

4 WHEREAS, unwise siting of solar developments could jeopardize Louisiana's farms,
5 forests, waterways, and wetlands; and

6 WHEREAS, it is appropriate to encourage the responsible siting of solar
7 development projects in Louisiana and to study alternative siting of such projects in areas
8 that will not harm, inhibit, or otherwise adversely impact fertile, prime, or productive farms
9 and fields.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
11 create the Louisiana Solar Siting Task Force.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Solar Siting Task Force shall be
13 comprised of the following members:

14 (1) The commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, or
15 his designee.

16 (2) The secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, or his designee.

17 (3) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development, or his designee.

18 (4) The president of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, or his designee.

19 (5) The president of the Senate, or his designee.

20 (6) The speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee.

21 (7) The executive director of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, or his
22 designee.

23 (8) The executive director of the Louisiana Municipal Association, or his designee.

24 (9) The executive secretary of the Louisiana Public Service Commission, or his
25 designee.

26 (10) The president of the Louisiana Landowners Association, Inc., or his designee.

27 (11) The executive director of the Gulf States Renewable Energy Industry
28 Association, or his designee.

29 (12) The president of the Advanced Power Alliance, or his designee.

30 (13) The president of the Center for Planning Excellence, or his designee.

1 (14) The president of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, or
2 his designee.

3 (15) A representative of the Louisiana Energy and Power Authority.

4 (16) The president of the Natural Resources Management Association, or his
5 designee.

6 (17) A representative of a privately owned utility regulated by the Louisiana
7 Public Service Commission.

8 (18) A representative of the investor owned utility regulated by the Louisiana
9 Public Service Commission and the City Council of New Orleans.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall study the impact of, and
11 alternatives to, the locating of solar panels on farmland.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Natural Resources shall
13 provide staffing support for the task force.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall convene its first meeting no
15 later than November 1, 2023, shall elect a chairperson from among its members at its first
16 meeting, and shall submit a written report of its findings and any recommendations for
17 legislation or regulations to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
18 of the Senate no later than February 1, 2024.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ten members of the task force shall constitute
20 a quorum sufficient to conduct meetings and business of the task force and its members shall
21 serve without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may
22 be individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that legislative authority for the task force shall
24 terminate on July 1, 2024.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted
26 to the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the secretary of the
27 Department of Natural Resources, the secretary of the Department of Economic
28 Development, the president of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, the executive director
29 of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, the executive director of the Louisiana
30 Municipal Association, the executive secretary of the Louisiana Public Service Commission,

1 the president of the Louisiana Landowners Association, the executive director of the Gulf
2 States Renewable Energy Industry Association, the president of the Advanced Power
3 Alliance, the president of the Center for Planning Excellence, the president of the
4 Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, the general manager of the Louisiana
5 Energy and Power Authority, the president of the Natural Resources Management
6 Association, the chairman of the Louisiana Public Service Commission, and executive
7 counsel of the City Council of New Orleans.

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 45 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

DeVillier

Creates the La. Solar Siting Task Force to study the impact of, and alternatives to, locating solar energy developments on farmland. Provides for the composition of the task force, structure, meeting requirements, and quorum. Requires the task force submit a written report of its findings to the legislature by Feb. 1, 2024.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to the original bill:

1. Add the following members to the task force: the president of the Advanced Power Alliance, or his designee; the president of the Center for Planning Excellence, or his designee; the president of the Association of La. Electric Cooperatives, or his designee; a representative of the La. Energy and Power Authority; the president of the Natural Resources Management Association, or his designee; a representative of a privately owned utility regulated by the La. Public Service Commission; and a representative of the investor owned utility regulated by the La. Public Service Commission and the City Counsel of New Orleans.
2. Change the quorum from six to 10 members.
3. Add an exception to the compensation of members relating to per diem or expense reimbursements that the members may be individually entitled to.
4. Make technical changes.
5. Require the members who were added to the task force receive a copy of this Resolution.