

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY SENATORS HENSGENS, CATHEY, CONNICK, CORTEZ, FESI, HARRIS, HENRY, HEWITT, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, PEACOCK, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, STINE AND TALBOT AND REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To approve the comprehensive master plan for integrated coastal protection projects, as adopted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board.

WHEREAS, R.S. 49:214.5.1 et seq. provides for the creation, duties, and responsibilities of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board (board); and

WHEREAS, under R.S. 49:214.5.2, the board represents the state's position in policy relative to the protection, conservation, enhancement, and restoration of the coastal area of the state through oversight of integrated coastal protection projects and programs; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the responsibility of the board to represent the state's position in policy relative to integrated coastal protection, membership on the board includes the following: the governor's executive assistant for coastal activities; the secretaries of the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Transportation and Development, the Department of Economic Development, and the commissioners of the division of administration, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Department of Insurance; eight members who are appointed by the governor in consultation with the Police Jury Association of Louisiana and the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana; the chair of the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration and Conservation; the director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness; the lieutenant governor; and two ex-officio members designated by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, the powers and duties of the board require working in conjunction with state agencies, political subdivisions, including flood protection authorities, levee districts and federal agencies, as well as representatives from the Louisiana Legislature, to develop a state comprehensive master plan for integrated coastal protection (coastal master plan) to address integrated coastal protection efforts from both short-term and long-range

perspectives, and to incorporate the structural, management, and institutional components of both efforts; and

WHEREAS, the board has engaged a state steering committee to assist with the development of the coastal master plan as directed by Governor John Bel Edwards' Executive Order No. JBE 2016-09, which requires all state agencies, departments, and offices to administer their regulatory practices and programs in a manner consistent with the coastal master plan; and

WHEREAS, in development of the coastal master plan, the board has also engaged a diverse group of key stakeholders to serve as the coastal advisory team (CAT) which began meeting in September of 2018, with meetings occurring every four to six months thereafter, to establish a clear vision for the 2023 coastal master plan consisting of members from the following groups: Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, building industry, chemical industry, oil and gas, ports and navigation, community representative, land conservation, recreational fishing, commercial fisheries, environmental and community nonprofit organizations, landowner representatives, local flood control, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources - office of coastal management, Louisiana Department of Economic Development - small business development, Louisiana Sea Grant, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources - marine fisheries office, Mississippi River Delta-Coalition, national advocacy group, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - national marine fisheries services, parish representatives from the eastern, central, and western areas of coastal Louisiana, RESTORE Council, university/academic representative, United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Department of Agriculture - natural resources conservation service, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the CAT, the board also engaged a series of advisory groups to establish the 2023 coastal master plan, including a Predictive Modeling Technical Advisory Committee including scientists and engineers with national or international experience who cover a range of disciplines relevant to the 2023 coastal master plan to provide independent technical review, five regional workgroups representing five coastal regions to integrate local knowledge and expertise, and community engagement

workgroups; and

WHEREAS, the coastal master plan shall include a list of projects and programs required for the protection, conservation, enhancement, and restoration of the coastal area, the action required of each agency to implement said project or program, and a schedule and estimated cost for the implementation of each project or program included in the plan; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 49:214.5.3 requires that, as part of the development of the coastal master plan, the board shall conduct not less than three public hearings in separate locations in the western, central, and eastern areas of the coastal area for the purpose of receiving comments and recommendations from the public and elected officials; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 49:214.5.3 also requires that at least two weeks prior to each public hearing, the board must contact the parish governing authorities, regional flood protection authorities, levee districts, and the state legislators of the parishes in the coastal areas for the purpose of soliciting their comments and recommendations and notifying them of the public hearing to be held in their area; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 49:214.5.3 requires the board to receive written comments and recommendations until thirty days prior to the submission of the coastal master plan to the legislative committees; and

WHEREAS, the board has gone well above and beyond the public outreach required by law and in addition to meeting its obligations as set forth in R.S. 49:214.5.3, the board has: (1) hosted a total of four public hearings between January and February 2023 in the cities of Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Houma, and New Orleans, with a total of over three hundred attendees, (2) participated in ten community conversations sponsored by a coastal Louisiana nongovernmental organization in Belle Chasse, Violet, New Orleans, Larose, Lacombe, Abbeville, Gonzales, Gretna, Litcher, and Grand Lake between November 2022 and March 2023 with 500 attendees, (3) opened the plan for public comment for seventy-nine days of public comment ending on March 25, 2023, (4) given one hundred twenty-seven general presentation briefings, (5) conducted seventy-five meetings with advisory groups, and (6) received over one thousand eight hundred unique views on the master plan data viewer; and

WHEREAS, as required under the provisions of R.S. 49:214.5.3, the coastal master

plan adopted by the board must be submitted to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works; and

WHEREAS, the legislature may approve or disapprove of the coastal master plan by resolution adopted by a majority vote of the members of each house of the legislature; and

WHEREAS, the board shall provide for implementation of the coastal master plan if the legislature approves such plan or if the legislature fails to take action on such plan within sixty days after the plan is submitted.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby approve the comprehensive master plan for integrated coastal protection as adopted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board and the executive director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES