

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY SENATORS POPE, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BERNARD, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, CORTEZ, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HARRIS, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, KLEINPETER, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, PEACOCK, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, STINE, TALBOT, WHITE AND WOMACK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the commissioner of administration, through the office of state buildings, to implement expansion of the Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park under the Capitol Complex Master Plan as envisioned by the Capitol Park Interpretive Plan and provide maintenance of monuments and sculptures within the Capitol Park and on the State Capitol.

WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 60 of the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature designated the gardens and grounds surrounding the Old Arsenal Museum on the capitol grounds as the Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park, all part of the Capitol Complex Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 49:150.1 charges the director of the office of state buildings with the management, operation, and maintenance of the Capitol Complex grounds, including the Old Arsenal Museum and the Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park Monuments Master Plan provides for six monument sites in the Capitol Park, placement of which is to be balanced to retain the historical registry designation and historic character of the area surrounding the Old Arsenal Museum as well as honoring the service and sacrifices of Louisiana members of the military services and their families throughout the history of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Capitol Complex attracts many visitors annually, both in-state and out-of-state, to its buildings and grounds, including the Old Arsenal Museum and the Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park; and

WHEREAS, the monuments and sculptures located within the Capitol Park, including those in the Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park and on the State Capitol, contribute to the visitor experience, and such monuments and sculptures should be properly maintained; and

WHEREAS, parking for visitors, particularly during sessions of the legislature, is a major concern which should be addressed as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS, opportunity for expansion of the Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park to the south and improved connection of the memorial park to the core of Capitol Park may be accomplished by demolition of the current parking garage of the old state insurance building and converting that space into additional planned parking space for Capitol Park visitors; and

WHEREAS, additional efforts to alleviate parking problems in the Capitol Complex can be accomplished by construction of a parking garage on the site of the existing surface parking area directly north of the Capitol Annex and south of the Claiborne Building through the capital outlay funding program as envisioned in the Capitol Park Interpretive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Capitol Park Interpretive Plan further envisions routing traffic on a portion of North Fifth Street and State Capitol Drive around Capital Park in order to expand the footprint of the Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park allowing additional space for its visitors and also helping to remember and honor our veterans in a thoughtful and dignified manner.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the commissioner of administration, through the office of state buildings, to implement expansion of the Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park under the Capitol Complex Master Plan, as envisioned in the Capitol Park Interpretive Plan particularly as it relates to the demolition of the old state insurance building parking garage, converting that space into additional planned parking space for Capitol Park visitors, and construction of a parking garage on the site of the existing surface parking lot between the Capitol Annex and the Claiborne Building.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the commissioner of administration, through the office of state buildings, to provide periodic maintenance, occurring not less than biannually, of all monuments within the Capitol Park, including those within the Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park, and all sculptures on the State Capitol.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Commissioner of Administration, Jay Dardenne.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES