
DIGEST

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HCR 52 Original

2024 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

Creates the La. Emergency Beetle Commission to study and recommend rules and actions to address forest devastation caused by beetle infestation, problems related to dead trees on private properties near power lines and other issues and effects on public right-of-ways caused by the danger and effects of such dead trees, and to consider whether certain regulations by the Dept. of Environmental Quality may be suspended during emergency situations caused by natural disasters.

Provides for the following members:

- (1) The commissioner of the La. Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry, or his designee.
- (2) The chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development, or his designee.
- (3) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development, or his designee.
- (4) A representative appointed by the commissioners of the La. Public Service Commission.
- (5) One member appointed by the executive director of the La. Forestry Association.
- (6) A representative of the Police Jury Association of La., appointed by the president of the association.
- (7) A representative of the La. Municipal Association, appointed by the president of the association.
- (8) The secretary of the La. Dept. of Environmental Quality, or his designee.
- (9) The commissioner of the La. Division of Administration, or his designee.
- (10) A representative from the office of the governor, appointed by the governor.
- (11) The executive director of the La. Loggers Association, or his designee.
- (12) The state representative for House District 27.

(13) The commissioner of the La. Dept. of Insurance, or his designee.

Requires the commission to advocate in support of the Congressional bill, S. 3838 of the 118th Congress of 2024, also known as the Emergency Pine Beetle Response Act of 2024, and to request the La. Congressional Delegation to support such Act as well as any other Congressional instrument that address the issue of beetle infestation.

Requires the commission to also focus its study on raising public awareness on beetle infestation, the dangers of it, and making recommendations on prevention or a remediation plan.

Requires members of the commission to serve without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled to.

Requires the commission to convene its first meeting no later than Aug. 1, 2024, at the call of the state representative representing House District No. 27, and the commission to hold such meetings as may be necessary to fulfill its duties. Requires the commission to elect a chairman and other officers as it deems appropriate at the first meeting.

Requires the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry to provide staff assistance to the commission upon the request of the chairman.

Requires the commission to submit a report of its findings and recommendations of rules and actions by Jan. 15, 2025, to the House and Senate Committees on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development, the commissioner of the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library.