

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 230

BY REPRESENTATIVE FIRMENT

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Urges and requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study ways to develop and enhance recreational opportunities for certain portions of Little River

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study ways to develop and
3 enhance recreational opportunities for certain portions of Little River.

4 WHEREAS, the Little River is a ninety-six mile long tributary of the Ouachita River
5 in central Louisiana; and

6 WHEREAS, the Little River is a Natural and Scenic River and is an area that is rich
7 in natural resources and offers fishing and boating, hunting and trapping, camping, hiking,
8 and many other benefits; and

9 WHEREAS, a portion of Little River is classified as a Wildlife Management Area
10 that is protected for the conservation of wildlife and for recreational activities involving
11 wildlife; and

12 WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 1 of the Constitution of Louisiana specifically
13 indicates that "the natural resources of the state, involving air and water, and healthful
14 scenic, historic and aesthetic quality of the environment shall be protected, conserved, and
15 replenished"; and

16 WHEREAS, fluctuations in the river levels impact public access to the river for much
17 of the year, and the low water levels make it virtually unnavigable and inaccessible to
18 recreational fishermen; and

19 WHEREAS, the study conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shall,
20 at a minimum, include the following:

1 (1) An examination of how hydrological control structures and practices impact that
2 portion of Little River above the Little River Basin, including the impact on the populations
3 of largemouth bass, spotted bass, and crappie, and how increased control of water levels on
4 the river could potentially create additional opportunities for residential development along
5 the river.

6 (2) An examination of the inclusion of Little River, Big Creek, Fish Creek, and
7 Trout Creek on the Scenic River list.

8 (3) An examination of the improvement and development of new recreational
9 opportunities for the public such as fishing, camping, hunting, and hiking, as well as
10 identification of potential locations for boat launches, parks, and fishing piers.

11 (4) An examination of the current health of Little River and its tributaries with
12 regards to water quality and pollution.

13 (5) A study on the health and population of the sport fish population.

14 (6) An examination of the viability of construction of a weir on the river.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
16 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Wildlife and
17 Fisheries to study ways to develop and enhance recreational opportunities for certain
18 portions of Little River and to submit a written report of its findings to the House Committee
19 on Natural Resources and Environment prior to the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature
20 of Louisiana.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
22 secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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)]

HR 230 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Firment

Urges and requests the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to study ways to develop and enhance recreational opportunities for certain portions of Little River. Requires the department to submit a written report of its findings to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment prior to the 2025 R.S.