

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 230

BY REPRESENTATIVE FIRMENT

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) An examination of how hydrological control structures and practices impact that portion of Little River above the Little River Basin, including the impact on the populations of largemouth bass, spotted bass, and crappie, and how increased control of water levels on

the river could potentially create additional opportunities for residential development along the river.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES