HLS 24RS-4723 ENGROSSED

2024 Regular Session

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 256

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

APPROPRIATIONS: To urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to report on potential liabilities to the state general fund if the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project is not timely completed

A RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to report to the House
3	Committee on Appropriations no later than June 12, 2024, describing potential
4	liabilities to the state general fund if the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project
5	is not timely completed and outlining the steps the state can take to mitigate any
6	impact to the state general fund.
7	WHEREAS, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is the state agency
8	responsible for the comprehensive master coastal protection plan; and
9	WHEREAS, the goal of the comprehensive master coastal protection plan is coastal
10	restoration, coastal zone management, storm damage reduction, hurricane protection, flood
11	control, and the protection, conservation, restoration, and enhancements of coastal wetlands;
12	and
13	WHEREAS, the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project is an important part of
14	the comprehensive master coastal protection plan; and
15	WHEREAS, the state began the permitting process for the Mid-Barataria Sediment
16	Diversion project in 2016 and began the construction phase in August of 2023; and
17	WHEREAS, the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project has a \$2.92 billion dollar
18	construction budget, comprised of \$2.26 billion dollars from Natural Resource Damage
19	Assessment funds and \$660 million dollars from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation;
20	and

HLS 24RS-4723

ENGROSSED
HR NO. 256

1 WHEREAS, the state has set aside \$378 million dollars for a mitigation and 2 stewardship program; and 3 WHEREAS, it has been reported that the state has spent \$422 million dollars to date 4 on pre-construction, construction, and mitigation; and 5 WHEREAS, it has been reported that the Plaquemines Parish Government has issued 6 a stop work order on the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project; and 7 WHEREAS, it has been reported that the state could owe between \$250 million and 8 \$500 million dollars in damages to subcontractors if the state cancels contracts to build the 9 Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project; and 10 WHEREAS, the repayment of funds may result in significant expenditures from the 11 state fisc. 12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the 13 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration 14 Authority to report to the House Committee on Appropriations no later than June 12, 2024, 15 describing potential liabilities to the state general fund if the Mid-Barataria Sediment 16 Diversion project is not timely completed and outlining the steps the state can take to 17 mitigate any impact to the state general fund. 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 19 Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

## **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)]

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Urges and requests the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to report to the House Committee on Appropriations no later than June 12, 2024, describing potential liabilities to the state general fund if the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project is not timely completed and outlining the steps the state can take to mitigate any impact to the state general fund.

## Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Appropriations</u> to the <u>original</u> bill:

HLS 24RS-4723 ENGROSSED HR NO. 256

1. Change the date on which the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority shall report to the House Committee on Appropriations from May 31, 2024, to June 12, 2024.

2. Make technical changes.