

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

ENERGY: Creates the Louisiana Grid Efficiency Task Force

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create and provide with respect to the Grid Efficiency Task Force to study and make
3 recommendations regarding the deployment of Grid Enhancing Technologies
4 (GETs), High Performance Conductors (HPCs) and Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) in
5 Louisiana, including their integration into the transmission system, regulatory and
6 market barriers, and economic and reliability benefits.

7 WHEREAS, Louisiana has historically been a leader in energy production and
8 innovation, with a strong industrial sector that depends on a reliable, affordable electricity
9 supply; and

10 WHEREAS, Louisiana is positioned to lead in modernizing its electricity grid to
11 enhance reliability, reduce congestion, and enable economic growth by deploying GETs,
12 HPCs and VPPs; and

13 WHEREAS, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) in its 2024
14 Long-Term Reliability Assessment found growth rates of forecasted peak demand and
15 energy in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) have risen
16 significantly since the 2023 assessment, projecting peak demand for electricity in MISO to
17 increase by nearly eight percent over the next ten years; and

18 WHEREAS, according to market monitor data from annual market reports,
19 transmission congestion costs across the seven organized markets in the United States have
20 risen significantly over the past eight years, more than doubling since 2016, with MISO

1 South having one hundred thirty-four million dollars in real-time congestion costs to
2 ratepayers in 2023; and

3 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy (DOE) National Laboratory
4 data shows that there are over thirty-nine gigawatts of generation and storage projects
5 waiting to connect to the grid in Louisiana; and

6 WHEREAS, the DOE's 2023 National Transmission Needs Study found that the
7 geographic "Delta" region, commonly referred to as MISO South, needs to expand regional
8 transmission capacity by forty-nine to two hundred thirty-one percent and interregional
9 capacity by eighty-six to five hundred seventy-two percent by 2035; and

10 WHEREAS, the Louisiana economy requires around-the-clock low cost, reliable
11 electricity to support the economy and serve its citizens; and

12 WHEREAS, Advanced Transmission Technologies (ATTs), which include but are
13 not limited to advanced power flow controls, dynamic line rating, and topology optimization,
14 commonly referred to as GETs, and HPCs, which include carbon and composite core
15 conductors and superconductors, offer affordable, innovative technological solutions to
16 reduce costs by unlocking critical transmission capacity; and

17 WHEREAS, VPPs, including aggregation of distributed energy resources and
18 demand flexibility, could maximize the use and value of existing grid infrastructure and
19 minimize costs to ratepayers through balancing electricity demand and supply, as well as
20 providing utility-scale and utility-grade grid services; and

21 WHEREAS, the DOE's Innovative Grid Technology Liftoff Report found that ATTs
22 and VPPs are commercially available and have been deployed internationally for years; and

23 WHEREAS, the report further found that GETs and HPCs provide multiple benefits
24 to consumers, including increased utilization by GETs on new and existing transmission
25 lines by sixteen percent or more and reduction of congestion by fifty percent or more; and

26 WHEREAS, the DOE also found reconductoring with HPCs could double the
27 capacity of existing transmission lines at approximately half the cost of building a new
28 transmission line, and if deployed nationally could meet NERC's ten-year peak load growth
29 projections and that VPPs could serve ten to twenty percent of 2030 peak demand, providing
30 peaking capacity at more than forty percent lower cost than a conventional peaker plant; and

1 WHEREAS, the state government, industry, and utilities can work together to
2 accelerate the use of these new innovative technologies to affordably expand the
3 transmission capacity needed to maintain reliability and meet growing electricity demand;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Louisiana can position itself as a leader in grid modernization and
6 economic development by fostering the deployment of GETs, HPCs, and VPPs thereby
7 enabling lower electricity costs and supporting continued industrial growth.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
9 create the Grid Efficiency Task Force, herein referred to as the "task force," composed of
10 members as provided below, to study and make recommendations on the deployment and
11 integration of GETs, HPCs, and VPPs in Louisiana's transmission grid.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the
13 following members:

14 (1) The chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment,
15 or his designee.

16 (2) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, or his designee.

17 (3) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources, or
18 his designee.

19 (4) The chairman of the Public Service Commission, or his designee.

20 (5) Two representatives from an electric utility operating in Louisiana.

21 (6) One representative from an electric cooperative operating in Louisiana.

22 (7) A representative from an industrial energy consumer group.

23 (8) An appointee from the LSU Center for Energy Studies with expertise in power
24 systems, energy economics, or grid modernization.

25 (9) No more than two appointees representing the interests of renewable energy
26 independent power producers, trade associations, or manufacturers.

27 (10) No more than two appointees representing the interests of or manufacturers of
28 transmission and distribution infrastructure.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be chaired by the chairman
2 of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment or his designee and the
3 chairman shall appoint members unless noted otherwise above.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall meet at least quarterly, with
5 an initial meeting no later than July 31, 2025, and be staffed by the Department of Energy
6 and Natural Resources.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of membership of the task force shall
8 constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and any official business shall require an
9 affirmative vote of the majority of the quorum present and voting.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall develop a written plan of
11 recommendations and provide the plan to the governor, the House Committee on Natural
12 Resources and Environment, and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources on
13 accelerating the deployment of grid efficiency solutions in Louisiana no later than February
14 1, 2026.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing this plan, the task force shall
16 research and address the following topics:

17 (1) Assessment of Louisiana's electricity transmission system, including historical
18 system congestion, reliability risks, and areas where ATTs and VPPs could improve
19 efficiency and capacity.

20 (2) Review of active and planned ATT and VPP projects nationwide including
21 deployment case studies and lessons learned.

22 (3) Regulatory and market barriers to deploying ATTs and VPPs, including state and
23 federal policies that impact investment in ATT and VPP solutions.

24 (4) Opportunities for Louisiana to integrate ATTs and VPPs into existing public
25 utility regulations, transmission planning, and interconnection processes.

26 (5) Potential cost savings and economic benefits to Louisiana industries, utilities,
27 and ratepayers from increased deployment of ATTs and VPPs.

28 (6) Workforce development and training programs to support the adoption of ATTs
29 and VPPs and related technologies in Louisiana.

1 (7) Recommendations for pilot projects and financing mechanisms to accelerate the
2 adoption of ATTs and VPPs.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
4 secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, the secretary of the
5 Department of Environmental Quality, the secretary of the Department of Economic
6 Development, and the chairman of the Public Service Commission.

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)]

HCR 40 Original

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Zeringue

Creates the Grid Efficiency Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding the deployment of Grid Enhancing Technologies (GETs), High Performance Conductors (HPCs) and Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) in La. Requires the task force prepare a written plan of recommendations to be submitted to the governor, the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources by Feb. 1, 2026.