

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 225

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

ENVIRONMENT: Urges and requests the Department of Environmental Quality, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Ouachita Parish Police Jury, and the municipalities within Ouachita Parish to study parish-wide solid waste, debris removal, and disaster resiliency services

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the Governor's
3 Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Ouachita Parish
4 Police Jury, and the municipalities within Ouachita Parish to jointly study a
5 parish-wide solid waste, debris removal, and disaster resiliency service model; to
6 evaluate consolidation of services; to explore public-private partnerships and funding
7 mechanisms; and to report findings and recommendations to the Legislature of
8 Louisiana.

9 WHEREAS, Ouachita Parish includes multiple municipalities and unincorporated
10 areas currently utilizing separate solid waste collection, debris removal, and cleanup
11 systems, resulting in fragmented services, inefficiencies, and inconsistent disaster response
12 capacity; and

13 WHEREAS, Louisiana routinely experiences hurricanes, floods, ice storms,
14 tornadoes, and other natural disasters that generate massive volumes of storm debris
15 requiring rapid and coordinated removal and disposal which often must also comply with
16 procedures of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and

17 WHEREAS, parish-wide coordination of trash service, vegetative debris collection,
18 construction and demolition waste management, and emergency cleanup operations can
19 improve efficiency, reduce taxpayer costs, enhance resiliency, and expedite disaster
20 recovery; and

1 WHEREAS, many communities across the United States have successfully
2 implemented consolidated solid waste authorities or regional service districts that provide
3 one-stop shop solutions for routine trash service, disaster debris response, recycling, landfill
4 operations, and mitigation planning; and

5 WHEREAS, a unified parish-wide approach could strengthen emergency
6 preparedness, improve FEMA reimbursement compliance, create economies of scale, and
7 allow for long-term infrastructure investments such as debris staging areas, transfer stations,
8 recycling centers, and hardened landfill facilities; and

9 WHEREAS, resilient waste and debris management systems are a critical component
10 of public health, environmental protection, economic recovery, and infrastructure stability
11 during and after disasters.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
13 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Environmental
14 Quality, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the
15 Ouachita Parish Police Jury, and all incorporated municipalities within Ouachita Parish to
16 collaboratively conduct a comprehensive study to address parish-wide consolidation of
17 services, disaster debris management and FEMA compliance, resiliency and infrastructure
18 improvements, and governance and funding models.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study of consolidation of services shall
20 include consideration of the following:

- 21 (1) Centralized residential and commercial trash collection.
- 22 (2) Parish-wide debris hauling and disposal contracts.
- 23 (3) Unified billing and service administration models.
- 24 (4) Cost savings and rate stabilization impacts.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study of disaster debris management and
26 FEMA compliance shall include consideration of the following:

- 27 (1) Pre-event debris removal contracts.
- 28 (2) Designated debris management and staging sites.
- 29 (3) FEMA documentation protocols.
- 30 (4) Rapid deployment cleanup frameworks.

1 (5) Public-private partnership opportunities.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study of resiliency and infrastructure
3 improvements shall include consideration of the following:

4 (1) Hardened landfill and transfer station planning.

5 (2) Recycling and waste diversion systems.

6 (3) Storm surge and flood-resistant facilities.

7 (4) Long-term mitigation strategies eligible for federal funding.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study of governance and funding models
9 shall include consideration of the following:

10 (1) Parish-wide waste authorities or service districts.

11 (2) Intergovernmental agreements.

12 (3) User-fee structures.

13 (4) FEMA, Environmental Protection Agency, and infrastructure grant programs.

14 (5) Private operator concessions or hybrid models.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the agencies and local governments referenced
16 herein shall submit a joint written report to the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial
17 and Cultural Affairs and the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public
18 Works no later than December 1, 2026, that includes the following:

19 (1) Feasibility findings.

20 (2) Cost comparisons.

21 (3) Recommended governance structure.

22 (4) Proposed implementation timeline.

23 (5) Legislative actions needed.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
25 secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, the director of the Governor's Office
26 of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the president of the Ouachita Parish
27 Police Jury, and the mayors and governing authorities of Monroe, Richwood, Sterlington,
28 and West Monroe.

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 225 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Echols

Urge and requests the Dept. of Environmental Quality, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Ouachita Parish Police Jury, and the municipalities within Ouachita Parish to jointly study a parish-wide solid waste, debris removal, and disaster resiliency service model; to evaluate consolidation of services; to explore public-private partnerships and funding mechanisms; and to report findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs and the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works by Dec. 1, 2026.