HLS 13RS-1143 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2013

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 68

BY REPRESENTATIVE ORTEGO

WATERWAYS/SCENIC RIVERS: Requests the continued examination of Bayou Teche as a scenic river

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to continue the study of Bayou
3	Teche in St. Martin Parish and St. Landry Parish for possible inclusion into the
4	Historic and Scenic Rivers program.
5	WHEREAS, Bayou Teche is a one-hundred-thirty-five mile long waterway of great
6	cultural and historic significance in south central Louisiana where it was the main course of
7	the Mississippi River at one time and where the river caused a delta to develop sometime
8	between three thousand and five thousand years ago; and
9	WHEREAS, Bayou Teche begins in Port Barre as it draws water from Bayou
10	Courtableau and then flows southward to meet the Lower Atchafalaya River near Morgan
11	City, flowing through the parishes of St. Landry, St. Martin, Iberia, and St. Mary; and
12	WHEREAS, the name "Teche" is a Chitimacha Indian word meaning "snake", which
13	aptly describes the bayou's twists and turns which resemble a snake's movement as the water
14	flows towards the Gulf of Mexico; and
15	WHEREAS, Bayou Teche was the primary waterway that brought exiled Acadians
16	from present day Nova Scotia to South Louisiana, was a focus of conflict during the
17	American Civil War, and up until construction of the levees along the Atchafalaya River in
18	the 1930's, served as an important route of commerce in southeast Louisiana; and
19	WHEREAS, Bayou Teche has served as a vital link between thriving communities
20	of south central Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico, a link that has been used by everyone
21	from Native Americans and French explorers to nineteenth century steamboat captains and

1 twentieth century loggers and fishermen and was a major waterway through much of south 2 central Louisiana's history; and 3 WHEREAS, inclusion in the Louisiana Historic and Scenic Rivers system would 4 greatly increase acknowledgment of Bayou Teche for its cultural and historic value and 5 would help to increase recreation and tourism on the bayou and in communities along the 6 bayou; and WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 49 of the 2012 Regular Session 7 requested the department to study the entire length of Bayou Teche for possible inclusion 8 9 into the Historic and Scenic Rivers program.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to continue the study of Bayou Teche in St. Martin Parish and St. Landry Parish for possible inclusion into the Historic and Scenic Rivers program.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 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)]

Ortego HCR No. 68

Requests the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to continue the study of Bayou Teche in St. Martin Parish and St. Landry Parish for possible inclusion into the Historic and Scenic Rivers program.