

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 82

BY SENATOR GARY SMITH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to perform a study determining how local governing authorities can regulate air boat noise.

WHEREAS, it is estimated that many Americans are being affected with hearing loss and impairment, that is partially attributed to damage from exposure to air boat noise; and

WHEREAS, studies have determined that air boat noise can lead to sleep loss, physiological and psychological harm, and disruption of normal living activities; and

WHEREAS, air boat noise exposure can be linked to increased risk of cardiovascular disorders, learning deficits in children, stress, and diminished quality of life; and

WHEREAS, air boat noise is a constant source of torment for some that presents a growing imperilment to the health and welfare of human and animal populations; and

WHEREAS, the LDWF should study and review the dangers of air boat noise, abatement, approaches, and varied implementation techniques; and

WHEREAS, the study should provide validations and proposed rules that can be sponsored, implemented and enforced by local government entities; and

WHEREAS, one difference between air boats and other boats is that air boats are powered by elevated, virtually unmuffled, high horsepower motors with large air propellers; and

WHEREAS, University of Florida researchers have reviewed the clash between the rights of those who enjoy natural water resources, and a conflict exemplified by the concern of air boat volume increases; and

WHEREAS, some state statutes allow for air boat motor noise to be up to approximately ninety decibels, that is the same amount of noise produced by a pneumatic concrete breaker; and

WHEREAS, regulation of air boat noise has been examined in order to reduce residential irritants, and preserve lakes and rivers where fishermen work and live; and

WHEREAS, the study on air boat noise by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries should include time and area restrictions, no-wake zones, sanctuaries, and scenic waterways.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study and determine ways that local governing authorities can regulate air boat noise.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES