

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 146

BY SENATOR BROOME

SENATE. Recognizes the importance of park and recreation facilities, expresses support for the designation of July as "National Park and Recreation Month", and declares July as "Park and Recreation Month in Louisiana".

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize the importance of park and recreation facilities, express support for the
3 designation of July as "National Park and Recreation Month" and declare July as
4 "Park and Recreation Month in Louisiana".

5 WHEREAS, public parks and recreation systems are dedicated to enhancing the
6 quality of life for residents in communities around the country through recreation
7 programming, leisure activities, and conservation efforts; and

8 WHEREAS, parks, recreation activities, and leisure experiences provide
9 opportunities for young people to live, grow, and develop into contributing members of
10 society; create lifelines and continuous life experience for older members of the community;
11 generate opportunities for people to come together and experience a sense of community;
12 and pay dividends to communities by attracting businesses, jobs, and increasing housing
13 value; and

14 WHEREAS, parks and recreation services play a vital role in creating active and
15 healthy communities, and the majority of older adults who visit parks report moderate or
16 high levels of physical activity during their visit and fifty percent of older adults who
17 participated in light to moderate aerobic park activity report being in a better mood after
18 visiting parks; and

1 WHEREAS, parks and recreation facilities foster a variety of activities that
2 contribute to a healthier United States, such as introducing injured military veterans and
3 those with physical disabilities to physical activity, mobilizing urban communities to use
4 chronic disease prevention practices, working with local school systems to develop
5 science-based curricula to educate children on nutrition and activity, connecting children
6 with nature, and combating obesity in youth; and

7 WHEREAS, the creation of places for physical activity, combined with information
8 outreach, produced a 48.4 percent increase in the frequency of physical activity; and

9 WHEREAS, more than seventy-five percent of United States citizens use park and
10 recreation facilities to maintain fitness and to remain socially interactive, which are critical
11 to maintaining community cohesion and pride; and

12 WHEREAS, community recreation programs at park and recreation facilities provide
13 children with a safe refuge and a place to play, which helps to reduce at-risk behavior such
14 as drug use and gang involvement; and

15 WHEREAS, sixty-nine percent of the United States population believes in local park
16 and recreation services, which supports the idea that such parks and services should be
17 funded by taxes and user fees; and

18 WHEREAS, public parks and recreation facilities create enormous economic value
19 through increased partnership, which improves the job base and the economic viability of
20 the local economy, including business relocation and expansion in the community and
21 increased tourism; and

22 WHEREAS, parks and recreation facilities reduce fuel costs and commute times by
23 providing a place close to home to relax, exercise, and reduce stress.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
25 recognizes the great societal value of parks and recreation facilities and their importance in
26 local communities across the United States, recognizes and honors the vital contributions of
27 employees and volunteers in park and recreation facilities, and supports the designation of
28 July as "National Park and Recreation Month".

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
30 hereby declares the month of July as "Park and Recreation Month in Louisiana".

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
2 executive director of the BREC Foundation.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

DIGEST

Broome

SR No. 146

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