

1 WHEREAS, through the years, unfortunately, the esthetic value of the lake has not
2 been appreciated, and it was used as a wastewater receiving body and as a drainage basin for
3 facilities and roads located nearby the lake resulting in a loss of water quality and a reduction
4 in the attractiveness of the lake; and

5 WHEREAS, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the concentration of polychlorinated
6 biphenyls (PCBs) was so high that signs were posted along the banks of the lake warning
7 people not to consume fish taken from the lake; and

8 WHEREAS, the Louisiana State Capitol is considered by many to be the welcoming
9 point for visitors to the state and, as a person would want his front yard and front door to be
10 kept attractive to welcome visitors to his home, so Louisianians want the area around the
11 state capitol to be kept in an appropriate manner to welcome the world to the state of
12 Louisiana; and

13 WHEREAS, with continued siltation from the Northdale Canal to the east of the
14 south lake portion of Capitol Lake and evaporation of the water during drought conditions
15 that have been experienced recently in Louisiana, the lakes are beginning to silt in and
16 degrade, leading to the lakes being a significantly less attractive element of the state capitol
17 area; and

18 WHEREAS, such degradation, essentially on the steps of the Louisiana State Capitol,
19 is unfortunate and speaks badly of Louisiana's desire to put our best foot forward and our
20 state agencies should take the lead in rectifying the situation; and

21 WHEREAS, improving the situation for Capitol Lake will require an assessment of
22 the lake and the steps needed to rectify years of neglect and will involve multiple state
23 agencies.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
25 urge and request the Department of Environmental Quality to report to the legislature what
26 would be required to clean up the appearance of Capitol Lake and to make the water quality
27 appropriate for a fish habitat.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Environmental Quality make
29 use of the expertise of other state agencies, particularly the Department of Wildlife and
30 Fisheries, the Department of Natural Resources, and the State Land Office, and that the other

1 state agencies lend their expertise to the Department of Environmental Quality for this study
2 and report.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a report be presented to the House Committee
4 on Natural Resources and Environment, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate
5 Committee on Natural Resources, and the Senate Committee on Finance no later than March
6 1, 2015.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the
8 secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality.

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)]

Broadwater

HCR No. 47

Urges and requests the Dept. of Environmental Quality to report to the legislature what would be required to clean up the appearance of Capitol Lake and to make the water quality appropriate for a fish habitat.

Requires that a report be presented to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, and the Senate Committee on Finance no later than March 1, 2015.