

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 62

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON

COASTAL RES/COASTAL ZONE: Urges and requests the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to study Lake Verret as an alternative drinking water source for Bayou Lafourche

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to study the feasibility

3 of a project to utilize the freshwater of Lake Verret as an alternative drinking water

4 source for the residents along Bayou Lafourche.

5 WHEREAS, Bayou Lafourche serves as the primary water source for several drinking water

6 systems that serve over three hundred thousand people throughout the parishes of Ascension,

7 Assumption, Lafourche, and Terrebonne by freshwater conveyed from the Mississippi River

8 into Bayou Lafourche through a pumping station in Donaldsonville; and

9 WHEREAS, those residents came to realize just how precious Bayou Lafourche is

10 as a natural resource after Hurricane Gustav inundated the bayou with large volumes of

11 debris, fallen trees, and other vegetation which substantially blocked the flow of water, and

12 the decomposition of which resulted in the contamination of the water and impairment of

13 the water's availability, treatability, color, odor, and taste, rendering the bayou useless as a

14 drinking water source; and

15 WHEREAS, since then the state of Louisiana has dedicated over forty three million

16 dollars to make this important resource more resilient, which has brought to light the need

17 for an alternate freshwater source besides pumping from the Mississippi River; and

18 WHEREAS, in the event of a pump station failure, major spill in the river, train

19 derailment, or some other catastrophic event, the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District has

1 no other means to get fresh water into the bayou and to the residents who are dependent
2 upon it; and

3 WHEREAS, one alternative to address this problem is to utilize the freshwater of
4 Lake Verret by constructing a structure at Cancienne Canal to Bayou Lafourche, channel
5 clearing and dredging within Cancienne Canal, and water quality analysis within Lake
6 Verret.

7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
8 urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to study the feasibility of
9 a project to utilize the freshwater of Lake Verret as an alternative drinking water source for
10 the residents along Bayou Lafourche.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
12 to the executive director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

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)]

Harrison

HCR No. 62

Urges and requests the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority study the feasibility of a project to utilize the fresh water of Lake Verret as an alternative drinking water source for the residents along Bayou Lafourche.