

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 135

BY REPRESENTATIVE DOVE

COASTAL COMMISSION: Requests the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to establish a subcommittee to study at-risk energy infrastructure in the coastal area

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board to establish a
3 subcommittee to develop recommendations for a coastal protection and restoration
4 program that addresses critical at-risk energy infrastructure, while simultaneously
5 providing broader ecological benefits and incentivizing shared investment in
6 individual projects, and submit a report of the recommendations to the House
7 Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on
8 Natural Resources on or before February 15, 2016.

9 WHEREAS, the coastal region of Louisiana has been experiencing rapid change for
10 many decades, primarily as a result of coastal land loss to such a degree that the state and
11 its partners have made coastal protection and restoration a priority by funding projects that
12 help to sustain the coastal economy, environment, and infrastructure; and

13 WHEREAS, Louisiana's coastal wetlands provide an important energy corridor for
14 a network of thousands of miles of petroleum pipelines and related assets that transport an
15 estimated thirty percent of oil and gas resources from the Gulf of Mexico to American
16 energy consumers as far as New England; and

17 WHEREAS, many of the older pipelines in these systems were designed and built
18 in a once stable wetland area that has since deteriorated to such a point where the pipeline
19 infrastructure is now critically exposed, and where the risk of damages from storms, normal
20 tidal scouring, continued erosion and subsidence, and marine accidents have dramatically
21 increased; and

1 WHEREAS, oil and gas and pipeline operators may, in the near future, be forced to
2 lower their pipelines or abandon and remove some critically exposed systems altogether and
3 subsequently incur the enormous costs of such drastic measures; and

4 WHEREAS, current technologies and techniques, such as installing rock rip-rap or
5 concrete mats, designed to protect and sustain these critically exposed pipeline systems may
6 no longer be seen as feasible methods of maintaining safe operations, and as such oil and gas
7 and pipeline operators have expressed an interest in alternative measures to protect these
8 facilities in the long-term; and

9 WHEREAS, the innovative coastal protection and restoration technologies and
10 partnerships currently being implemented and developed by restoration agencies, nonprofit
11 organizations, and some landowners can provide alternative solutions for oil and gas and
12 pipeline companies to evaluate and invest in protection and restoration projects that have a
13 measurable and cost effective benefit to an existing energy asset and an ecological benefit
14 to a broader group of stakeholders.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
16 urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board to establish a
17 subcommittee to develop recommendations for a coastal protection and restoration program
18 that addresses critical at-risk energy infrastructure, while simultaneously providing broader
19 ecological benefits and incentivizing shared investment in individual projects, and submit
20 a report of the recommendations to the House Committee on Natural Resources and
21 Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources on or before February 15,
22 2016.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
24 to the chairman of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board.

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)]

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