

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 68

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

AGRICULTURE/FOREST DEPT: Requests the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to study implementing a master logger certification program under the office of forestry

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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To urge and request the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to study the feasibility of implementing a master logger certification program under the office of forestry in the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to be administered by the Louisiana Forestry Association.

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WHEREAS, the primary responsibilities of the office of forestry are to: suppress timberland wildfires; promote sound forest management practices; disseminate information; facilitate educational programs; produce reforestation seedlings; enforce timber-related laws; investigate timber theft; and assist community urban forestry programs; and

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WHEREAS, Louisiana's forestlands cover forty-eight percent of the state's land area or 13.8 million acres; and

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WHEREAS, this renewable resource provides the raw material for Louisiana's second largest manufacturing employer, the forest products industry, with over nine hundred firms in forty-five parishes directly employing over twenty-five thousand people and an additional eight thousand people are employed harvesting and transporting the resource; and

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WHEREAS, with adequate protection, followed by appropriate and accepted forest management techniques, Louisiana's forests are available to serve our state, both rural and urban, not only on a sustained basis, but at an increased level of productivity; recognizing the various interests and needs of so many owners, efforts to encourage and promote sound forestry practices over such a vast area requires a balanced, educational process; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Forestry Association administers a Sustainable Forestry
2 Initiative (SFI) Master Logger program to certify loggers as master loggers; and

3 WHEREAS, the SFI master logger program will provide the tools needed to keep our
4 forests healthy and growing; and

5 WHEREAS, the program consists of a series of classes given over the span of two
6 days that an individual must attend in order to become certified as a Louisiana Master
7 Logger; and

8 WHEREAS, individuals are required to complete the core classes only once, but each
9 certified logger must earn a minimum of six continuing education credits each year in order
10 to maintain their certification; if a certified logger does not take the classes and is inactive
11 for three years, they must start the certification process over with the core classes; and

12 WHEREAS, implementing the program under the direction of the office of forestry
13 in the Department of Agriculture and Forestry allows the office of forestry to mandate that
14 all logging contractors and foremen receive master logger certification training; and

15 WHEREAS, the department supports the Louisiana Forestry Association
16 administering the program and the department believes that this program is a necessary and
17 important tool that the office of forestry can use to make sure that all loggers and foremen
18 are educated in the most up-to-date techniques to use when engaging in the harvest and
19 transport of timber.

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
21 urge and request the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to study the feasibility of
22 implementing a master logger certification program under the office of forestry in the
23 Department of Agriculture and Forestry to be administered by the Louisiana Forestry
24 Association.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry
26 report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana on or before
27 February 1, 2018.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
29 to the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the Louisiana
30 Forestry Association.

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)]

HCR 68 Engrossed

2017 Regular Session

McFarland

Urges and requests the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry to study the feasibility of implementing a master logger certification program under the office of forestry in the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry to be administered by the La. Forestry Association. Requires the department to report its findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than Feb. 1, 2018.