

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 156

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER

WATER/DRINKING WATER: Requests state-level collaboration to evaluate the issues and conditions of drinking water treatment and distribution in communities throughout Louisiana

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to lead a collaborative effort to  
3 improve public drinking water quality in this state, and to develop recommendations  
4 to the legislature concerning effective and responsible practices to improve and  
5 maintain the quality of drinking water provided by water utility systems.

6 WHEREAS, the provision of water for public use and consumption that is not only  
7 safe but also acceptable in appearance, taste, and odor is of the highest priority; and

8 WHEREAS, water that is aesthetically unacceptable can undermine the confidence  
9 of consumers, will result in complaints, and could lead to the use of water from sources  
10 which are less safe; and

11 WHEREAS, generally, consumers have no means of judging the safety of their water  
12 themselves, but their attitude towards the water supply and water suppliers is often greatly  
13 affected by the aspects of water quality that they are able to perceive with their own senses;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, it is natural for consumers to regard with suspicion water that appears  
16 dirty or discolored or that has an unpleasant taste or smell; and

17 WHEREAS, even though these characteristics may not in themselves be of direct  
18 consequence, they may cause a substantial number of persons to discontinue using a public  
19 water system; and

1           WHEREAS, on July 28, 2010, through Resolution 64/292, the United Nations  
2 General Assembly explicitly recognized the right to safe and clean drinking water and  
3 sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human  
4 rights; and

5           WHEREAS, in November 2002, the United Nations Committee on Economic,  
6 Social, and Cultural Rights adopted General Comment No. 15, The Right to Water, which  
7 affirms that the human right to water is indispensable for dignity in life and is a prerequisite  
8 for the realization of other human rights.

9           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
10 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health  
11 to lead a collaborative effort to improve public drinking water quality in this state, and to  
12 develop recommendations to the legislature concerning effective and responsible practices  
13 to improve and maintain the quality of drinking water provided by water utility systems.

14           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall lead  
15 a collaborative effort to evaluate the issues and conditions of drinking water treatment and  
16 distribution in communities throughout Louisiana by performing a thorough evaluation of  
17 all of the following:

- 18           (1) The sanitary survey results for each water utility system across Louisiana.  
19           (2) The effects deteriorating systems have on the safety, health, and well-being of  
20 Louisiana families, communities, and businesses.

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall engage  
22 and solicit input, recommendations, and guidance from interested parties and stakeholders  
23 in the collaborative effort called for in this Resolution, including but not limited to all of the  
24 following:

- 25           (1) State and local agencies involved in the regulation, treatment, and distribution  
26 of drinking water.  
27           (2) Technical experts at the university and consulting levels.  
28           (3) Water utility system owners and operators, community members, and state  
29 legislators from areas with known public water quality issues.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Louisiana Department of Health shall develop  
2 a report of the results of the collaborative effort called for in this Resolution, including  
3 findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation, if necessary, and shall submit the  
4 report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare no later than thirty days prior to the  
5 convening of the 2020 Regular Legislative Session.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall submit  
7 an interim progress report no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the regular  
8 legislative session of each year until the final report required by this Resolution is submitted.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
10 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

---

#### 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)]

---

HR 156 Engrossed

2017 Regular Session

Hunter

Requests the La. Dept. of Health to lead a collaborative effort to improve public drinking water quality in this state, and to develop recommendations to the legislature concerning effective and responsible practices to improve and maintain the quality of drinking water provided by water utility systems.

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Change the requirement to evaluate the conditions of each water utility system to a requirement to evaluate the sanitary survey results for each system.
2. Change the reporting deadline to 2020.
3. Require interim progress reports.