

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 156

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES