

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 42

BY REPRESENTATIVE HILL

AGRICULTURE/FOREST DEPT: Urges and requests the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to study the feasibility of creating a lumber grading training program

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to study the feasibility of
3 creating a lumber grading training program under the office of forestry.

4 WHEREAS, small sawmills producing local-use lumber have levels of production
5 that make obtaining and maintaining the ability to grade-stamp cost prohibitive; and

6 WHEREAS, New Hampshire passed legislation in 1994 to allow sawmills registered
7 with the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands to certify local lumber or lumber
8 sawn in the state for local end-use applications; and

9 WHEREAS, Wisconsin passed legislation in 2004 to establish a basic lumber grading
10 training program to allow individuals to grade lumber for use in the construction of
11 dwellings under very limited circumstances; and

12 WHEREAS, New Hampshire and Wisconsin offer one-day courses on lumber
13 grading standards and require individuals to take a grading test upon completion of the
14 course that must be retaken every five years to maintain certification; and

15 WHEREAS, these courses are offered through the University of New Hampshire
16 Cooperative Extension and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and are under the
17 authority of the Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food and the Department of Natural
18 Resources, respectively; and

19 WHEREAS, in Louisiana, the office of forestry under the Department of Agriculture
20 and Forestry is responsible for the facilitation of educational programs relating to forestry;
21 and

1 WHEREAS, Louisiana currently has forestry programs offered at Louisiana State
2 University and Agricultural and Mechanical College at Baton Rouge, Southern University
3 and Agricultural and Mechanical College at Baton Rouge, Louisiana Tech University at
4 Ruston, and Central Louisiana Technical Community College at the Oakdale and Huey P.
5 Long campuses, which will merge with SOWELA Technical Community College in July
6 2018; and

7 WHEREAS, offering a basic lumber grading training program either directly through
8 the office of forestry or in partnership with one of the state's existing college forestry
9 programs would allow small mills to grade local lumber for individuals to use in their
10 homes.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
12 urge and request the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to study the feasibility of
13 creating a lumber grading training program under the office of forestry and submit a report
14 of its findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than February 1, 2019.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
16 to the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the state forester, the
17 Louisiana State University vice president for agriculture and dean of the College of
18 Agriculture, the chancellor of the Southern University Agricultural Center and dean of the
19 College of Agriculture, the president of Louisiana Tech University, and the chancellor of
20 SOWELA Technical Community College.

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 42 Engrossed

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Urges and requests the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry to study the feasibility of creating a lumber grading training program. Requires the department to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than Feb. 1, 2019.