

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 92

BY REPRESENTATIVES CONNICK AND HILFERTY

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the legislative auditor to conduct an audit of the contracts of the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board entered into by the board since January, 2013.

WHEREAS, Act No. 6 of the 1899 Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature created the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board to furnish, construct, operate, and maintain a water treatment and distribution system and a sanitary sewerage system for the city of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, in 1903, the Drainage Commission of the city of New Orleans was merged with the Sewerage and Water Board in order to consolidate drainage, water, and sewerage programs under one agency for more efficient operations; and

WHEREAS, the Sewerage and Water Board set out to fulfill its goals of providing the city with adequate drainage, sewerage collection, and drinking water by constructing new facilities with funds from a local property tax; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the costs associated with the construction and maintenance of the facilities has continued to escalate, particularly after the devastating damage caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005; and

WHEREAS, although the Sewerage and Water Board has received billions of dollars in funding from the federal government and local property taxes, the board has struggled to rebuild its facilities and to make timely infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, many questions have been raised recently regarding the expenditures of the Sewerage and Water Board as well as the board's billing practices, its tracking of ongoing construction projects, and its safeguards against theft.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the legislative auditor to conduct an audit of the contracts of the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board entered into by the board since January 1, 2013, with any individual or entity, including but not limited to all professional, general, noncompliance bid, and competitive bid contracts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana also requests that the legislative auditor analyze the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of the contracts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state legislative auditor and the executive director of the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES