

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 42

BY REPRESENTATIVE HILL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Louisiana currently has forestry programs offered at Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College at Baton Rouge, Southern University

and Agricultural and Mechanical College at Baton Rouge, Louisiana Tech University at Ruston, and Central Louisiana Technical Community College at the Oakdale and Huey P. Long campuses, which will merge with SOWELA Technical Community College in July 2018; and

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE