

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 193

BY REPRESENTATIVE HILFERTY

WATER/SEWER OPERATORS: Creates a task force to study issues related to sewerage, water, and drainage in the city of New Orleans

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create the Task Force on New Orleans Sewerage, Water, and Drainage Utilities to study  
3 issues related to the management of sewerage, water, and drainage facilities and  
4 services in the city of New Orleans and to provide a written report of findings and  
5 recommendations regarding the best strategies and procedures for the management  
6 of such facilities and services to the mayor of the city of New Orleans, the New  
7 Orleans City Council, and the members of the Orleans Parish legislative delegation  
8 not later than January 31, 2019.

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

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

16 WHEREAS, as the population of the city of New Orleans grew rapidly over the next  
17 one hundred years, the Sewerage and Water Board faced many new challenges in its attempt  
18 to provide efficient sewerage, water, and drainage services to the city's residents; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2005, Hurricane Katrina severely damaged the facilities of the  
20 Sewerage and Water Board, and the board has had to contend with rebuilding those facilities  
21 and making necessary infrastructure improvements; and

1 WHEREAS, costs associated with providing sewerage, water, and drainage services  
2 to the city's residents continue to escalate, and the city's population is again on the rise; and

3 WHEREAS, over the last several years, many residents, business owners, and local  
4 officials have questioned whether the Sewerage and Water Board is the best entity to manage  
5 sewerage, water, and drainage facilities and services in the city of New Orleans; and

6 WHEREAS, suggestions abound regarding the best management options for the  
7 city's sewerage, water, and drainage facilities and services, including but not limited to  
8 public-private partnerships, granting control to the city, or allowing the Sewerage and Water  
9 Board to retain control; and

10 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for a comprehensive review of the management  
11 options for sewerage, water, and drainage facilities and services in the city of New Orleans,  
12 including a review of the state law governing the Sewerage and Water Board, as provided  
13 in R.S. 33:4071 et seq., so that the residents of the city can have confidence that such  
14 facilities and services are being managed as efficiently as possible.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
16 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Task Force on New Orleans Sewerage,  
17 Water, and Drainage Utilities to study issues related to the management of sewerage, water,  
18 and drainage facilities and services in the city of New Orleans and to provide a written report  
19 of findings and recommendations regarding the best strategies and procedures for the  
20 management of such facilities and services to the mayor of the city of New Orleans, the New  
21 Orleans City Council, and the members of the Orleans Parish legislative delegation not later  
22 than January 31, 2019.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the  
24 following members:

- 25 (1) The mayor of the city of New Orleans or his designee.  
26 (2) The chairperson of the Public Works, Sanitation and Environment Committee of the  
27 New Orleans City Council or his designee.  
28 (3) A representative of the New Orleans chapter of the Louisiana Engineering Society  
29 designated by the president of the chapter.

1 (4) The general superintendent of the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board or his  
2 designee.

3 (5) A representative of the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau  
4 designated by the president of the bureau.

5 (6) A representative of the Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region  
6 designated by the chair of the council.

7 (7) A representative of the New Orleans Office of Inspector General designated by the  
8 inspector general.

9 (8) A member of the New Orleans Board of Liquidation, City Debt designated by the  
10 board.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that mayor or his designee shall serve as the  
12 chairman of the task force and the chairperson of the Public Works, Sanitation and  
13 Environment Committee of the New Orleans City Council or his designee shall serve as the  
14 vice chairman.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman shall call the first meeting of the  
16 task force, and the meeting shall be held no later than August 1, 2018.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all representatives and designees shall be named  
18 no later than July 1, 2018.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
20 mayor of the city of New Orleans, the New Orleans City Council, and the members of the  
21 Orleans Parish legislative delegation.

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#### 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)]

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HR 193 Original

2018 Regular Session

Hilferty

Creates the Task Force on New Orleans Sewerage, Water, and Drainage Utilities to study issues related to the management of sewerage, water, and drainage facilities and services in the city of New Orleans. Provides for a written report of findings and recommendations regarding the best strategies and procedures for the management of the facilities and services to the mayor of the city of New Orleans, the New Orleans City Council, and the members of the Orleans Parish legislative delegation not later than Jan. 31, 2019.