

1 shoreline modifications and development, and the sediment and nutrient content of runoff
2 from agricultural development being deposited annually into the lake; and

3 WHEREAS, these causes have negatively impacted and may continue to threaten and
4 degrade the value of the lake as a valuable resource for wildlife habitat and as a source of
5 economic activity that stimulates the surrounding area and should allow for the increased
6 enjoyment of the lake; and

7 WHEREAS, the citizens of Louisiana deserve to have a restored and sustainable
8 Lake Providence and an essential step in that process is the development and agreement on
9 a practicable plan with achievable goals and measurable milestones of achievement for how
10 best to restore and sustain the lake, along with an estimation of cost for those restoration
11 efforts; and

12 WHEREAS, it is essential to conduct a careful and deliberate scientific study to
13 develop a sound and lasting solution to the deterioration of the quality of the Lake
14 Providence watershed and that action based on the recommendations developed in this study
15 be implemented as expeditiously as possible in order to preserve, protect, and enhance these
16 resources now and for generations to come; and

17 WHEREAS, there are several state and local agencies, including the Department of
18 Agriculture and Forestry, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Louisiana
19 Department of Health, and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries with expertise,
20 knowledge, and resources essential to identify and evaluate the problems present in the Lake
21 Providence watershed; and

22 WHEREAS, it is important that the appropriate state and local governments work
23 together with all the various stakeholders interested in the restoration of Lake Providence
24 to identify the problems, determine solutions, and implement remedies to restore, preserve,
25 and enhance the health and sustainability of the Lake Providence watershed; and

26 WHEREAS, to achieve the goal of a restored Lake Providence watershed as quickly
27 and completely as possible, it is necessary to bring together the various government interests,
28 as well as nongovernmental stakeholder organizations who possess specialized knowledge
29 or whose members represent resource users in the Lake Providence watershed.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
2 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend the Lake Providence Watershed Council, whose
3 membership shall be as follows:

4 (1) The commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry or his designee
5 within the department.

6 (2) The secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality or his designee within
7 the department.

8 (3) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee within the
9 department.

10 (4) The secretary of the Department of Natural Resources or his designee within the
11 department, who shall serve as vice chair of the council.

12 (5) The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or his designee within
13 the department, who shall serve as chair of the council.

14 (6) The state senator from Senate District thirty-four.

15 (7) The state representative from House District twenty-one.

16 (8) Two members appointed by the senator from Senate District thirty-four.

17 (9) Two members appointed by the representative from House District twenty-one.

18 (10) Two members appointed by the East Carroll Parish Police Jury.

19 (11) One member appointed by the East Carroll Parish Sheriff.

20 (12) One member appointed by the mayor of the city of Lake Providence.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Lake Providence Watershed
22 Council shall not be entitled to receive any salary, per diem, expenses, mileage, or other
23 emoluments of the office for their service on this commission, outside of any that they may
24 be entitled to by virtue of their service in another public office.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the council shall, at the proper time, contact the
26 following federal resource agencies to solicit their views and input with respect to
27 completing the study requested by this Resolution:

28 (1) United States Army Corps of Engineers.

29 (2) United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

30 (3) United States Geological Survey.

1 (4) National Resources Conservation Service.

2 (5) United States Department of Agriculture.

3 (6) National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

4 (7) United States Environmental Protection Agency.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Lake Providence Watershed
6 Council shall meet as often as necessary to deliberate and produce a report that will identify,
7 review, and evaluate management strategies to facilitate the goal of improving the aquatic
8 habitat of Lake Providence; to provide recommendations for the optimal management and
9 protection of the resources within the Lake Providence watershed, including but not limited
10 to the following:

11 (1) The study of impacts and potential impacts to water quality, excess nutrient, and
12 sediment runoff management, shoreline modification management, watershed conservation
13 measures, and innovative habitat restoration methodology.

14 (2) Coordination of federal, state, and local efforts to improve and protect water
15 quality; surface water resource management and protection policies; and recommendations
16 for the optimal management and protection of the natural resources in the Lake Providence
17 watershed.

18 (3) Recommended changes to current procedures and practices to make the
19 management and protection of the natural resources in the Lake Providence watershed more
20 efficient, comprehensive, and sustainable.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report prepared by the Lake Providence
22 Watershed Council shall be submitted to the House Committee on Natural Resources and
23 Environment and the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality no later than May first
24 of each year.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
26 commissioner of agriculture and forestry, the secretary of the Department of Environmental
27 Quality, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the secretary of the
28 Department of Natural Resources, the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries,
29 the East Carroll Parish Police Jury, the East Carroll Parish Sheriff, and the mayor of the city
30 of Lake Providence.

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 96 Original

2020 Regular Session

Thompson

Extends the Lake Providence Watershed Council and provides for its responsibilities and its membership as follows:

- (1) The commissioner of the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry or his designee within the department.
- (2) The secretary of the Dept. of Environmental Quality or his designee within the department.
- (3) The secretary of the La. Dept. of Health or his designee within the department.
- (4) The secretary of the Dept. of Natural Resources or his designee within the department, who shall serve as vice chair of the council.
- (5) The secretary of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries or his designee within the department, who shall serve as chair of the council.
- (6) The state senator from Senate District 34.
- (7) The state representative from House District 21.
- (8) Two members appointed by the senator from Senate District 34.
- (9) Two members appointed by the representative from House District 21.
- (10) Two members appointed by the East Carroll Parish Police Jury.
- (11) One member appointed by the East Carroll Parish Sheriff.
- (12) One member appointed by the mayor of the city of Lake Providence.

Provides that the council is to identify, review, and evaluate management strategies to facilitate the goal of improving the aquatic habitat of Lake Providence and provide recommendations for the optimal management and protection of the resources within the Lake Providence watershed.

Requires that the Lake Providence Watershed Council submit a report to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality no later than May 1st of each year.