2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

BY REPRESENTATIVES BOURRIAQUE, COUSSAN, AND LACOMBE AND SENATORS HENSGENS AND LAMBERT AND REPRESENTATIVES ADAMS, AMEDEE, BROWN, BUTLER, CARRIER, WILFORD CARTER, CORMIER, DESHOTEL, FARNUM, FREEMAN, HUVAL, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, KERNER, LYONS, MACK, MARCELLE, MCMAHEN, MIGUEZ, GREGORY MILLER, MINCEY, RISER, SCHEXNAYDER, THOMAS, THOMPSON, TURNER, AND VILLIO

FUNDS/FUNDING: Memorializes Congress and the Louisiana congressional delegation to clarify the eligibility of freshwater fisheries impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to receive CARES Act dollars

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To memorialize the United States Congress and the Louisiana congressional delegation to
3	take such actions as are necessary to clarify and provide guidance regarding the
4	ability of freshwater fisheries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to receive
5	assistance funding from CARES Act dollars.
6	WHEREAS, three hundred million dollars in fisheries assistance funding has been
7	provided by Section 12005 of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security
8	(CARES) Act; and
9	WHEREAS, the United States Secretary of Commerce, through National Oceanic
10	and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, has allocated fourteen million seven hundred
11	eighty-five thousand two hundred forty-four dollars with the specific purpose of assisting
12	Louisiana commercial fishermen, charter businesses, qualified aquaculture operations,
13	subsistence users, processors, and other fishery-related businesses affected by the COVID-19
14	pandemic through direct aid payments; and
15	WHEREAS, the United States Department of Commerce's determination has limited
16	qualified applicants to those who participate in various sectors of coastal and marine
17	fisheries, thereby precluding eligibility for freshwater fisheries; and

1	WHEREAS, Louisiana has thousands of commercially licensed freshwater
2	fishermen; and
3	WHEREAS, in 2019 freshwater fisheries harvest, including wild caught crawfish,
4	accounted for a dockside value of nearly twenty million dollars, illustrating how vital
5	freshwater fisheries are to the people and the economy of Louisiana; and
6	WHEREAS, the full scale of the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on
7	freshwater fisheries has not yet been determined; however, these fisheries have been directly
8	impacted; and
9	WHEREAS, the impacts to freshwater fisheries and other Louisiana fisheries
10	participants result in individuals who would benefit greatly from a direct payment program;
11	and
12	WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is charged with
13	developing programs to expend these funds; and
14	WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana supports the development of direct
15	payment programs to industry participants.
16	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
17	memorialize the United States Congress and the Louisiana congressional delegation to take
18	such actions as are necessary to clarify and provide guidance regarding the ability of
19	freshwater fishermen or fishery-related businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to
20	receive assistance funding from CARES Act dollars.
21	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
22	presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the
23	United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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 16 Engrossed 2020 First Extraordinary Session Bourriaque

Memorializes the U.S. Congress and the La. congressional delegation to take such actions as are necessary to clarify and provide guidance on the ability of freshwater fisheries or fishery-related businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to receive assistance funding from CARES Act dollars.