

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 129

BY REPRESENTATIVES MIKE JOHNSON, BUTLER, ROBBY CARTER, FIRMENT,
MCFARLAND, CHARLES OWEN, RISER, THOMPSON, AND TURNER

A RESOLUTION

To create the Catahoula Lake Study Group to study the feasibility and advisability of establishing a Catahoula Lake Commission.

WHEREAS, Catahoula Lake and Little River are bodies of water located primarily in LaSalle and Rapides Parishes; and

WHEREAS, the Catahoula Lake Game and Fish Preserve Commission was first established in 1952; and

WHEREAS, the Catahoula Lake Game and Fish Preserve Commission was abolished and its duties were transferred to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in 1974; and

WHEREAS, LaSalle Parish and Rapides Parish have since created a local Catahoula Lake game and fish commission pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 56:721 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, recent changes, concerns, and interests related to these water bodies have called into question issues related to jurisdiction over the preserve, management and maintenance of the preserve, and certain riparian rights; and

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for the state to establish a Catahoula Lake Commission in order to study these issues and to coordinate the interests of the state, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, local parishes, and the local commission, as well as private interests.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create a Catahoula Lake Study Group to study the feasibility and advisability of the state establishing a Catahoula Lake Commission to study and make recommendations regarding the issues of jurisdiction, management, and maintenance of the preserve; riparian rights; the interests of state, local, and private stakeholders; and any related matter to determine the best path forward for maintaining the preserve.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) The chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment or his designee.
- (2) The state representative from House District Number 20.
- (3) The state representative from House District Number 22.
- (4) The state representative from House District Number 27.
- (5) The senator from Senate District Number 32.
- (6) The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or his designee.
- (7) The attorney general or his designee.
- (8) Two members appointed by the LaSalle Parish Police Jury.
- (9) One member appointed by the Rapides Parish Police Jury.
- (10) One member of the local Catahoula Lake Game and Fish Commission, appointed by the local Catahoula Lake Game and Fish Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group shall elect a chairman and other officers as it deems appropriate at its first meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the study group shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled to as members or employees of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the total membership shall constitute a quorum of the study group and any official action by the study group shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall prepare a written report detailing its findings and any recommendations it may have to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, as required by R.S. 24:772, by February 1, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the attorney general, the LaSalle Parish Police Jury, the Rapides Parish Police Jury, and the Catahoula Lake Game and Fish Commission.