

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 127

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD

TRANSPORTATION: Creates the Louisiana Contraflow Task Force

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create the Louisiana Contraflow Task Force to study and make recommendations
3 regarding contraflow throughout the state, including safety recommendations such
4 as the implementation and use of a siren system near populated areas.

5 WHEREAS, the strategy for parishes dealing with natural disasters, such as potential
6 catastrophic hurricanes or man-made disasters, is to evacuate highly populated areas as
7 quickly and efficiently as possible for the safety of their citizens; and

8 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana implemented a contraflow plan to aid in the quick
9 and efficient evacuation process of at-risk populations through lane reversals of major
10 interstates in the state, which would allow traffic to flow out of heavily populated areas
11 through increasing the number of available lanes; and

12 WHEREAS, contraflow is a highly effective action plan with economic and logistical
13 benefits, as contraflow reduces the cost and time required to construct additional lanes to
14 increase the capacity on the roadway necessary for accelerated evacuations; and

15 WHEREAS, contraflow lanes are easier to manage and enforce during emergency
16 situations, as a driver can only enter or leave the contraflow at limited, designated points;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Development is responsible for
19 public works and engineering functions on the state infrastructure system to implement
20 contraflow during natural disasters and manmade disasters; and

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Development and the Louisiana
2 State Police are responsible for having contraflow plans ready to be implemented when a
3 state of emergency is declared; and

4 WHEREAS, with no mandatory contraflow plan in effect in Southern Louisiana,
5 citizens may choose an additional lane or road shoulder to use as their own contraflow
6 thereby creating dangerous and hazardous conditions for themselves and other citizens
7 evacuating; and

8 WHEREAS, an additional benefit to residents in the state would be alternative safety
9 mechanisms such as a system of sirens near at-risk populations to warn of natural disasters
10 and to prompt citizens to stay inside and listen to their local radio or television stations for
11 emergency messages; and

12 WHEREAS, in an effort to accomplish these goals the state would benefit from a
13 group of parish representatives and nonprofit groups involved in community work studying
14 ways to immediately implement a seamless plan for contraflow, the installation of siren
15 systems, the impact of the lack of siren systems, and other safety measures to mitigate
16 hazardous conditions.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
18 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Louisiana Contraflow Task Force,
19 hereinafter referred to as the "task force", to study contraflow in the state of Louisiana, the
20 implementation of alternative safety mechanisms such as a system of sirens to aid in alerting
21 citizens of impending danger and the need to evacuate, and other safety measures to mitigate
22 hazardous conditions.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed as follows:

- 24 (1) One member appointed by the mayor of Orleans parish.
- 25 (2) One member appointed by the parish president for St. Bernard parish.
- 26 (3) One member appointed by the president of the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury.
- 27 (4) One member appointed by the parish president for Plaquemines parish.
- 28 (5) One member appointed by the parish president for St. John the Baptist parish.
- 29 (6) One member appointed by the parish president for St. James parish.
- 30 (7) One member from A Community Voice - Louisiana.

1 (8) One member from United Labor Unions Local 100.

2 (9) One member from the Association of Community Organizations for Reform
3 Now.

4 (10) One member from Save Our St. Bernard.

5 (11) One member from Concerned Citizens of St. John.

6 (12) One member from Inclusive Louisiana and RISE St. John.

7 (13) One member from the Louisiana Oystermen Association.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall elect a chairman from its
9 membership and the members shall serve without compensation; however, the task force
10 may receive the same reimbursement of travel expenses for attending the meetings as is
11 allowed for other state employees.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is hereby charged with the
13 responsibility to make recommendations with respect to contraflow plans, alternative safety
14 mechanisms, and the implementation of a system of sirens to the Department of
15 Transportation and Development.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall convene its first meeting by
17 September 1, 2022, and shall meet, at a minimum, on a quarterly basis.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of
19 its findings and make recommendations to the House Committee on Transportation,
20 Highways and Public Works, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
21 Department of Transportation and Development no later than February 1, 2023.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
23 secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, the mayor of Orleans
24 parish, the parish president for St. Bernard parish, the president of the Calcasieu Parish
25 Police Jury, the parish president for Plaquemines parish, the parish president for St. John the
26 Baptist parish, the parish president for St. James parish, A Community Voice - Louisiana,
27 the United Labor Unions Local 100, the Association of Community Organizations for
28 Reform Now, Save Our St. Bernard, Concerned Citizens of St. John, Inclusive Louisiana and
29 RISE St. John, and the Louisiana Oystermen Association.

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)]

HR 127 Engrossed

2022 Regular Session

Willard

Creates the Contraflow Task Force to meet and make recommendations to the Dept. of Transportation and Development on contraflow plans, alternative safety mechanisms, and the implementation of a system of sirens.

Specifies the Contraflow Task Force be composed of the following:

- (1) One member appointed by the mayor of Orleans parish.
- (2) One member appointed by the parish president for St. Bernard parish.
- (3) One member appointed by the president of the Calcasieu parish Police Jury.
- (4) One member appointed by the parish president for Plaquemines parish.
- (5) One member appointed by the parish president for St. John the Baptist parish.
- (6) One member appointed by the parish president for St. James parish.
- (7) One member from A Community Voice - Louisiana.
- (8) One member from United Labor Unions Local 100.
- (9) One member from the Association of Community Organization for Reform Now.
- (10) One member from Save Our St. Bernard.
- (11) One member from Concerned Citizens of St. John.
- (12) One member from Inclusive La. and RISE St. John.
- (13) One member from La. Oystermen Association.

Requires the Contraflow Task Force convene its first meeting by Sept. 1, 2022, and meet, at a minimum, on a quarterly basis.

Requires the task force elect a chairman from its membership and serve without compensation. Authorizes the task force to receive the same reimbursement of travel expenses for attending the meetings as is allowed for other state employees.

Requires the task force submit a written report and make recommendations to the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Dept. of Transportation and Development no later than Feb. 1, 2023.