

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 127

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (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 Organizations 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 Louisiana and RISE St. John.

(13) One member from the Louisiana Oystermen Association.

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES