

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 183

BY REPRESENTATIVE GOUDEAU

A RESOLUTION

To create the Atchafalaya Basin Bridge Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding safety on the Interstate Highway 10 bridge over the Atchafalaya Basin and the implementation of a law enforcement police force on the Interstate Highway 10 bridge over the Atchafalaya Basin in St. Martin and Iberville Parish.

WHEREAS, particular areas of the Interstate Highway 10 bridge over the Atchafalaya Basin have extremely narrow lanes and there are frequent lane closures for emergency responders to reach drivers on the bridge involved in crashes or requiring medical attention, in addition to frequent lane closures for required repair work; and

WHEREAS, impaired, aggressive, and distracted driving, in addition to excessive speeding, creates an additional dangerous environment on the Interstate Highway 10 bridge over the Atchafalaya Basin; and

WHEREAS, 18-wheelers also utilize these narrow lanes on the Interstate Highway 10 bridge over the Atchafalaya Basin, heightening the likelihood of deadly situations involving impaired, aggressive, and distracted drivers on the bridge.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Atchafalaya Basin Bridge Task Force, referred to in this Resolution as the "task force", to study and make recommendations regarding safety on the Interstate Highway 10 bridge over the Atchafalaya Basin and the implementation of a law enforcement police force on the Interstate Highway 10 bridge over the Atchafalaya Basin in St. Martin and Iberville Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be comprised of the following members:

- (1) The sheriff for St. Martin parish.
- (2) The sheriff for Iberville parish.
- (3) The District Attorney for St. Martin parish.
- (4) The District Attorney for Iberville parish.
- (5) One member appointed by a member of the House of Representatives whose district is in St. Martin parish.
- (6) One member appointed by a member of the House of Representatives whose district is in Iberville parish.
- (7) One member appointed by the member of the House of Representatives who serves as the state representative for House District 31 representing Lafayette and Vermilion parish.

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 shall consider and make recommendations on the following responsibilities:

- (1) The public safety of motorists and law enforcement on Interstate Highway 10 bridge over the Atchafalaya Basin to the Department of Transportation and Development.
- (2) The St. Martin and Iberville parish sheriffs' departments patrolling the Interstate Highway 10 bridge over the Atchafalaya Basin.
- (3) The patrol shift of the St. Martin and Iberville parish sheriffs' departments.
- (4) The feasibility of the St. Martin and Iberville parish sheriffs' departments utilizing their own motorist assistance instead of solely relying on the Department of Transportation and Development to provide assistance and offer assistance from a public safety standpoint.
- (5) The feasibility of the St. Martin and Iberville parish sheriffs' departments to offer assistance from a public safety standpoint if debris is in the travel lane and causes a hazard on Interstate Highway 10 bridge over the Atchafalaya Basin by removing the debris

themselves with private tow truck companies on a rotational list or contacting the Department of Transportation and Development.

(6) The development and support of policies and procedures to establish and maintain communication between the St. Martin and Iberville parish sheriffs' departments and the Department of Transportation and Development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall convene its first meeting prior to September 15, 2022, and shall meet, at a minimum, on a quarterly basis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this task force shall be staffed by the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association for all meetings of the task force.

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 Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the sheriffs' office for St. Martin parish, the sheriffs' office for Iberville parish, the district attorney's office for St. Martin parish, and the district attorney's office for Iberville parish.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES