

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 45

BY REPRESENTATIVE DEVILLIER

AGRICULTURE: Creates the Louisiana Solar Siting Task Force to study the impact of, and alternatives to, locating solar energy developments on farmland

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create the Louisiana Solar Siting Task Force to study the impact of, and alternatives to,  
3 locating solar energy developments on farmland.

4 WHEREAS, the United States is now home to more than two million solar  
5 photovoltaic developments according to a 2019 announcement by Wood Mackenzie's Power  
6 and Renewables industry report and the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA); and

7 WHEREAS, across the United States, farmland is being leased by solar companies  
8 for the construction and operation of solar installation and the production of solar energy;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, prime farmland is being taken out of production when it is critical that  
11 such land be available for increased production to feed a growing population at home and  
12 abroad; and

13 WHEREAS, solar energy development can have tremendous physical impacts,  
14 including but not limited to soil compaction due to heavy machinery and disruption of  
15 subsurface and surface drainage systems, on the land both during the solar projects lifetime  
16 and afterwards; and

17 WHEREAS, a legitimate concern surrounding the development of solar energy is  
18 how long-term the physical impacts will last and how successfully the land can convert back  
19 to agricultural uses at the end of the solar lease; and

1           WHEREAS, as the result of economic benefit for one landowner and economic  
2 incentives for businesses to create very few jobs, agricultural heritage areas may be subject  
3 to negative impacts for future generations; and

4           WHEREAS, unwise siting of solar developments could jeopardize Louisiana's farms,  
5 forests, waterways, and wetlands; and

6           WHEREAS, it is appropriate to encourage the responsible siting of solar  
7 development projects in Louisiana and to study alternative siting of such projects in areas  
8 that will not harm, inhibit, or otherwise adversely impact fertile, prime, or productive farms  
9 and fields.

10           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
11 create the Louisiana Solar Siting Task Force.

12           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Solar Siting Task Force shall be  
13 comprised of the following members:

14           (1) The commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, or  
15 his designee.

16           (2) The secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, or his designee.

17           (3) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development, or his designee.

18           (4) The president of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, or his designee.

19           (5) The president of the Senate, or his designee.

20           (6) The speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee.

21           (7) The executive director of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, or his  
22 designee.

23           (8) The executive director of the Louisiana Municipal Association, or his designee.

24           (9) The executive secretary of the Louisiana Public Service Commission, or his  
25 designee.

26           (10) The president of the Louisiana Landowners Association, Inc., or his designee.

27           (11) The executive director of the Gulf States Renewable Energy Industry  
28 Association, or his designee.

29           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall study the impact of, and  
30 alternatives to, the locating of solar panels on farmland.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Natural Resources shall  
2 provide staffing support for the task force.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall convene its first meeting no  
4 later than November 1, 2023, shall elect a chairperson from among its members at its first  
5 meeting, and shall submit a written report of its findings and any recommendations for  
6 legislation or regulations to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
7 of the Senate no later than February 1, 2024.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that six members of the task force shall constitute  
9 a quorum sufficient to conduct meetings and business of the task force and its members shall  
10 serve without compensation.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that legislative authority for the task force shall  
12 terminate on July 1, 2024.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted  
14 to the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the secretary of the  
15 Department of Natural Resources, the secretary of the Department of Economic  
16 Development, the president of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, the executive director  
17 of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, the executive director of the Louisiana  
18 Municipal Association, the executive secretary of the Louisiana Public Service Commission,  
19 the president of the Louisiana Landowners Association, and the executive director of the  
20 Gulf States Renewable Energy Industry Association.

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#### 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)]

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HCR 45 Original

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DeVillier

Creates the La. Solar Siting Task Force to study the impact of, and alternatives to, locating solar energy developments on farmland. Provides for the composition of the task force, structure, meeting requirements, and quorum. Requires the task force submit a written report of its findings to the legislature by Feb. 1, 2024.