

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 79

BY SENATOR HODGES

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to conduct an engineering study on the upper Amite River Basin and evaluate all areas with the potential capacity to detain or retain stormwater runoff through a system of structures.

WHEREAS, the Amite River Basin covers portions of Amite, Lincoln, Franklin, and Wilkinson Counties in southwest Mississippi, and East Feliciana, St. Helena, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, Ascension, and Iberville Parishes in southeast Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Amite River Basin was particularly impacted by the catastrophic flood of 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Stormwater Master plan was launched in 2017 to address drainage problems in the most efficient and effective way possible for citizens; and

WHEREAS, the plan will be developed in three phases, each phase including numerous activities; and

WHEREAS, the Comite River Diversion Canal Project is underway to alleviate flooding that affects thousands of residents; and

WHEREAS, alleviating flooding in the Amite River is an essential component in preparation for the next major rain event; and

WHEREAS, the Amite River Basin primarily has flooding from the upper and lower basins; and

WHEREAS, the upper basin flooding is caused from headwater flooding from rainfall events; and

WHEREAS, responsible alternatives are necessary to improve drainage beyond the current capability of the lower watershed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to evaluate all areas in the upper Amite River Basin with the potential capacity to detain or retain stormwater runoff through a system of structures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall consist of the upper Amite River Basin North of the I-12 corridor where detention or retention of stormwater runoff may have a positive and meaningful impact on the volume and timing of stormwater reaching the middle and lower Amite River Basin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department is urged to study and consider, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Whether water supply sources and recreational facilities are able to be incorporated into the detention or retention.

(2) The development of a plan of managed storage or retention in sufficient volumes to reduce flood impact to downstream areas for multiple storm sizes and durations, including the development of conceptual designs and potential system operation guidance to minimize flows downstream.

(3) The evaluation of impacts by incorporating existing and proposed drainage improvements to quantify effects on the entire watershed.

(4) An evaluation of how benefits of detention and retention in the upper Amite River Basin could support further efforts to improve drainage or flood control efforts in the lower Amite River Basin.

(5) A determination of the viability of water supply and recreational facilities at each detention and retention structure.

(6) A determination of the social and economic impacts and benefits both upstream and downstream of each structure.

(7) An evaluation of the environmental impacts and benefits upstream and downstream from each structure and an evaluation of the potential impacts and benefits to the aquifers.

(8) The development of the feasibility of design and construction with cost estimates of the detention or retention structures, in compliance R.S. 38:21.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and Development is urged to use recently collected data, modeling efforts, and previous studies to reduce duplication of effort and accelerate the study process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and Development shall provide a written report detailing the completion timeline and the associated costs for the evaluation of the upper Amite River Basin to the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works by January 1, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES