

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 381

BY REPRESENTATIVE WALTERS

WATER/DRINKING WATER: Creates the Clean Water Task Force to study the public water system in Shreveport

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create the Clean Water Task Force to study the public water system in Shreveport and
3 report its findings no later than November 18, 2025.

4 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health implemented the Safe Drinking
5 Water Program that provides comprehensive drinking water protection to the citizens and
6 visitors of Louisiana, supervising over a thousand public water systems for compliance with
7 state and federal drinking water regulations; and

8 WHEREAS, the goal of the Safe Water Drinking Program is to prevent illness and
9 death that can occur from waterborne disease outbreaks or chemical exposure associated
10 with contaminated drinking water; and

11 WHEREAS, the Safe Drinking Water Program monitors collection, analysis, and
12 review of bacteriological and chemical samples to ensure compliance with maximum
13 contaminant levels, treatment technique requirements, monitoring and analytical
14 requirements; and

15 WHEREAS, the Safe Drinking Water Program conducts sanitary surveys and site
16 inspections to evaluate the capability of a drinking water system to consistently and reliably
17 deliver an adequate quality and quantity of safe drinking water to the consumer and to ensure
18 compliance with state and federal drinking water regulations; and

19 WHEREAS, Shreveport's water system has been facing a series of issues, including
20 a failing grade for the second consecutive year due to aging infrastructure, manganese levels,
21 and algae blooms; and

1 WHEREAS, these issues have led to taste and odor problems, as well as water
2 discoloration; and

3 WHEREAS, the city of Shreveport has experienced boil advisories in the past due
4 to water quality issues; and

5 WHEREAS, through state legislation that creates a political subdivision or through
6 cooperative endeavor agreements establishing an intergovernmental compact among the
7 stakeholders; and

8 WHEREAS, a collaborative effort is essential in order to develop responsible
9 practices to improve and maintain the quality of drinking water in the region.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
11 create the Clean Water Task Force to study the public water system in Shreveport,
12 Louisiana.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the
14 following members:

15 (1) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) or his designee.

16 (2) The vice president of external affairs of the Southwestern Electric Power
17 Company (SWEPCO) or his designee.

18 (3) The chief executive officer of Axom Development Company or his designee.

19 (4) A representative of the city of Shreveport appointed by the governor.

20 (5) A representative of the city of Shreveport appointed by the speaker of the House.

21 (6) One appointee from the city of Shreveport Water and Sewage Department
22 appointed by the mayor of Shreveport.

23 (7) The dean of the school of Allied Health from Oschner LSUS Health System or
24 his designee.

25 (8) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ)
26 or his designee.

27 (9) Two representatives of the city of Shreveport appointed by the mayor of
28 Shreveport.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall evaluate the current
30 condition, infrastructure, management, and sustainability of Shreveport's public water

1 systems, and to provide recommendations to improve reliability, water quality, affordability,
2 and long-term resilience.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall do all of the following:

4 (1) Assess the condition of existing water infrastructure, including treatment plans,
5 pipelines, and pumping stations.

6 (2) Review water quality reports, boil advisory history, and public health concerns.

7 (3) Analyze water utility management practices, rates, and customer service
8 responsiveness.

9 (4) Identify funding gaps and potential state and federal support options.

10 (5) Recommend improvements to infrastructure, management, and policy.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of
12 its findings and recommendations to the House Committee of Health and Welfare no later
13 than November 18, 2025.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the member appointed by the governor shall
15 serve as the chairman of the task force, and the member appointed by the speaker of the
16 House shall serve as the vice chairman.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall be appointed
18 no later than July 1, 2025.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman shall call the first meeting of the
20 task force, and the meeting shall be held no later than August 1, 2025 and the first public
21 hearing by September 2, 2025.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall conduct public monthly
23 hearings at a public facility located in Shreveport until March 1, 2026.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of Bossier/Shreveport Community
25 Renewal shall provide staff support for the task force.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may cooperate with all agencies,
27 departments, and political subdivisions of the state of Louisiana in all undertakings the
28 purpose of which shall be the furtherance of the objects and purposes of the task force.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
30 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the secretary of the

1 Louisiana Department of Health, the mayor of the city of Shreveport, the president of
2 Louisiana State University in Shreveport, the president of Southern University Shreveport
3 Louisiana, the president of Axom Development Company, the chairman of Shreveport
4 Airport Authority, the interim director of Shreveport Water and Sewage Department, the
5 president of Oschner LSUS Health System, and the president of Southwestern Electric
6 Power Company.

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 381 Original

2025 Regular Session

Walters

Creates the Clean Water Task Force to study the public water system in Shreveport and report its findings no later than November 18, 2025.

Requires the task force to hold both meetings and public hearings monthly and submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the House Committee of Health and Welfare.

Requires the task force to assess the condition of existing water infrastructure, review water quality reports, analyze water utility management practices and identify funding gaps and potential state and federal funding options.