

1 WHEREAS, the demand for water wells, especially for shallow wells less than two
2 hundred feet for agricultural use, has increased; and

3 WHEREAS, the decrease in the availability of licensed water well drillers and its
4 potential impact on the rates charged have lead land owners to seek options to install water
5 wells themselves on their own land for agricultural use; and

6 WHEREAS, Act No. 437 of the 2009 Regular Session of the Legislature transferred,
7 along with other responsibilities ground water resource management, the administration of
8 the laws, rules, and regulations providing for the licensing of water well drillers from the
9 Department of Transportation and Development to the Department of Natural Resources,
10 office of conservation; and

11 WHEREAS, the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment
12 considered House Bill No. 208 with great discussion on several issues, including the demand
13 of, the qualifications for, the two year apprentice requirement for, and the testing
14 requirements for licensing water well drillers, and the role of the advisory committee,
15 created by R.S. 38:3098.6.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
17 urge and request the Department of Natural Resources, office of conservation, in
18 consultation with the Ground Water Resources Commission, to study and report a detailed
19 review of the availability and demand of qualified water well drillers, the demand for
20 shallow water wells less than two hundred feet for agricultural use, the rules and regulations
21 regarding the licensing of water well drillers, including but not limited to qualifications, the
22 two year apprentice requirement, and the testing of water well drillers, as well as the role of
23 the advisory committee created by R.S. 38:3098.6, in ensuring that only qualified water well
24 drillers are licensed to the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment and
25 the Senate Committee on Natural Resources by February 15, 2014.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge
27 and request the Department of Natural Resources, office of conservation, in consultation
28 with the Ground Water Resources Commission, to propose recommendations to address the
29 concerns of the availability of qualified water well drillers and its impact on the rates
30 charged, changes, if any, to the rules and regulations on the licensing of qualified water well

1 drillers, including but not limited to changes to qualifications, the two-year apprentice
2 requirement, and the testing of prospective water well drillers, to ensure that the state's
3 precious natural water resources are protected for public health, safety, and economic
4 well-being, and report any such recommendations to the House Committee on Natural
5 Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources by February
6 15, 2014.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
8 Department of Natural Resources, commissioner of conservation.

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)]

Pylant

HCR No. 150

Urges and requests the Dept. of Natural Resources, office of conservation, in consultation with the Ground Water Resources Commission, to study, report, and make recommendations on the availability of qualified water well drillers, water well driller licensing requirements, and their impact on the rates charged for drilling water wells.