

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOLLIS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create the Sanitary Sewer Systems Overflows Commission to study and make recommendations on actions necessary to timely report, reduce, and eliminate sewage overflows.

WHEREAS, a sanitary sewer overflow occurs when there is an overflow, spill, or release of raw or partially treated sewage from a sanitary sewer collection system out of manholes and onto city streets, playgrounds, and into streams, before it reaches a sewage treatment plant; and

WHEREAS, the federal Clean Water Act and the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act prohibit such discharges of pollutants and also require proper operation and maintenance of sewage collection systems and treatment facilities; and

WHEREAS, people may come into contact with released raw sewage through swimming and fishing, in neighborhoods from flooding streets, and through contaminated drinking water; and

WHEREAS, contact with raw sewage exposes people to a variety of pathogenic microorganisms, viruses, and intestinal worms and can lead to illnesses such as cholera, dysentery, hepatitis, and gastroenteritis; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency estimates that there are twenty-thousand separate sanitary sewer systems in this country with thousands of overflows occurring each year; and

WHEREAS, plans for all sewage systems are approved by the state health officer in the Louisiana Department of Health prior to construction; and

WHEREAS, permit terms and conditions require wastewater treatment systems to report such overflows to the Department of Environmental Quality.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Sanitary Sewer Systems Overflows Commission to study and make recommendations on actions necessary to timely report, reduce, and eliminate sewage overflows.

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

(1) One member shall be a member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House and who shall serve as chairman of the commission.

(2) One member shall be a member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate and who shall serve as vice chairman of the commission.

(3) One member shall be the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, or his designee.

(4) One member shall be the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, or her designee.

(5) One member shall be the executive director of the Louisiana Rural Water Association, or his designee.

(6) One member shall be the executive director of the Louisiana Municipal Association, or his designee.

(7) One member shall be the executive director of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, or his designee.

(8) One member shall be the executive director of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the commission shall not be compensated for their service on the commission but may seek travel reimbursements from their respective agencies. A majority of the membership is necessary for a quorum.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall submit recommendations to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs, the

Senate Committee on Environmental Quality, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs no later than March 1, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall terminate on March 1, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the executive director of the Louisiana Rural Water Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Municipal Association, the executive director of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, and the executive director of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE