Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 126

BY REPRESENTATIVE DIXON

PORTS/HARBORS/TERMINALS: Urges and requests the creation of a parishwide port authority in Rapides Parish

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the further development of existing port assets focused on the entire
3	Red River waterway in Rapides Parish.
4	WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 138 of the 2012 Regular Session of
5	the Legislature (SCR No. 138) requested a comprehensive report on economic development
6	opportunities and strategies for the Red River area between the cities of Alexandria and
7	Pineville; and
8	WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, the Central
9	Louisiana Economic Development Alliance (CLEDA), and the Red River Waterway
10	Commission (RRWC) also contributed to this response as the designated regional economic
11	development organization for the area described in SCR No. 138; and
12	WHEREAS, the report provides an in-depth overview of the need for a broader eight-
13	parish central Louisiana regional economic development plan to encourage the collaborative
14	development of strategies and plans among multiple communities to create a more powerful
15	unit; and
16	WHEREAS, the review of existing planning efforts related to the Port of Alexandria
17	and the city of Alexandria reveal no such comprehensive plan for parishwide, river-related
18	development in recent history; and
19	WHEREAS, due to recent changes in legislation, the opportunity to expand and
20	update the authority of the Port of Alexandria has arisen; and

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WHEREAS, with the port authority of the Port of Alexandria restricted to the
 municipal limits of the city of Alexandria, the port's authority covers only one side of the
 Red River within the city of Alexandria's boundaries; and

- WHEREAS, a regional port authority with jurisdiction to cover all of Rapides Parish
 would allow for increased planning and competitive position for the port and region; and
 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, CLEDA, and the
 RRWC recommended legislation setting a timetable for the creation of a parishwide port
 authority governing the Port of Alexandria to develop activities and provide opportunities
 to develop a plan focused on the entire Red River waterway in Rapides Parish; and
- WHEREAS, this expansion shall require more dedicated staffing, funding, target
 industry analysis, strong interregional relationships, leadership training and stakeholder
 education, as well as improved marketing; and

13 WHEREAS, in the effort to build interregional relationships, the parishwide port 14 authority shall include three commissioners appointed by the mayor of the city of Alexandria 15 and confirmed by the Alexandria City Council, three commissioners appointed by the 16 Rapides Parish Police Jury, one commissioner appointed jointly by the mayors of the 17 municipalities in Rapides Parish, except the municipalities of Alexandria and Pineville, and 18 shall be subject to confirmation by the Rapides Parish Police Jury, two commissioners 19 appointed by the mayor of the city of Pineville and confirmed by the board of aldermen of 20 the city of Pineville, and one commissioner appointed at large by the Central Louisiana 21 Chamber of Commerce and confirmed by the Alexandria City Council and the Rapides 22 Parish Police Jury.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
urge and request the development and creation of a parishwide port authority in Rapides
Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution and the Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance (CLEDA) report findings as legislated by SCR No. 138 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature, be sent to all municipalities in the parish of Rapides and the following economic development organizations: Greater Alexandria Economic Development Authority, England Authority, Central Louisiana HLS 13RS-1313

- 1 Chamber of Commerce, North Rapides Business Alliance, and the Central Louisiana
- 2 Business League.
- 3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each economic development organization and
- 4 each municipality in the parish of Rapides shall pass a resolution in support or opposition
- 5 to the suggested formation of the parishwide port authority and report such resolution to the
- 6 House Committee on Municipal, Parochial, and Cultural Affairs by November 21, 2013.

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)]

Dixon

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