Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 128

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

WATER/RESOURCES: Urges and requests the Dept. of Transportation and Development to study the effects hydrokinetic turbines on infrastructure

| 1 | A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION |
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| 2 | To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to study the effects |
| 3 | of hydrokinetic turbines on infrastructure and to report the results to the House |
| 4 | Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, the House Committee |
| 5 | on Natural Resources and Environment, the Senate Committee on Transportation, |
| 6 | Highways and Public Works, and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources prior |
| 7 | to the convening of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana. |
| 8 | WHEREAS, the quest for a viable alternative energy source today will provide the |
| 9 | fuel for tomorrow's energy independence, natural resources conservation, environmental |
| 10 | protection, and economic engine; and |
| 11 | WHEREAS, one such alternative energy source is the generation of power from the |
| 12 | flow, current, or velocity of water, known as hydrokinetic power, through the installation of |
| 13 | turbines on riverbeds, bridge piers, or beneath barges, as opposed to hydropower that |
| 14 | traditionally refers to power generated using dams or diversionary structures; and |
| 15 | WHEREAS, since hydrokinetic power relies simply on the velocity of water, these |
| 16 | zero-head power systems can be placed into sources of flowing water with minimal |
| 17 | infrastructure or environmental impacts; and |
| 18 | WHEREAS, Louisiana is on the cutting edge of this technology, with the passage of |
| 19 | Act No. 875 and Act No. 930 of the 2010 Regular Session of the Legislature authorizing the |
| 20 | State Mineral and Energy Board to grant leases for the purpose to develop hydrokinetic |
| 21 | power; and |
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HLS 12RS-593

| 1 | WHEREAS, after three years of research and development, which used a |
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| 2 | combination of private funds and a one million four hundred thousand dollar federal |
| 3 | Department of Energy grant, Free Flow Power Corporation is successfully operating its first |
| 4 | full-scale hydrokinetic turbine generator in the Mississippi River attached to Dow Chemical |
| 5 | Company's dock in Plaquemine; and |
| 6 | WHEREAS, Free Flow Power Corporation and other companies are examining the |
| 7 | installation of such turbines in many other locations on the Mississippi River; and |
| 8 | WHEREAS, Mark Twain once wrote that "The Mississippi River will always have |
| 9 | its own way; no engineering skill can persuade it to do otherwise;" therefore a study of the |
| 10 | effects of this technology on the hydrodynamics of the Mississippi River, including the |
| 11 | removal of sediment around critical infrastructure such as bridges or scouring, is needed. |
| 12 | THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby |
| 13 | urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to study the effects of |
| 14 | hydrokinetic turbines on infrastructure and to report the results to the House Committee on |
| 15 | Transportation, Highways and Public Works, the House Committee on Natural Resources |
| 16 | and Environment, the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, |
| 17 | and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources prior to the convening of the 2013 Regular |
| 18 | Session of the Legislature of Louisiana. |
| 19 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the |
| 20 | secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development. |

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)]

Leger

HCR No. 128

Urges and requests DOTD to study the effects of hydrokinetic turbines on infrastructure and to report the results to oversight committees prior to the 2013 R.S.