

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 145

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

FLOODING/CONTROL: Urges and requests the Department of Transportation and Development to evaluate all potential areas in the upper Amite River Basin on the potential to detain and retain stormwater runoff through a system of structures

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to evaluate all  
3 potential areas in the upper Amite River Basin on the potential to detain and retain  
4 stormwater runoff through a system of structures.

5 WHEREAS, the Amite River Basin covers portions of Amite, Lincoln, Franklin, and  
6 Wilkinson Counties in southwest Mississippi and East Feliciana, St. Helena, East Baton  
7 Rouge, Livingston, Ascension, and Iberville Parishes in southeast Louisiana; and

8 WHEREAS, the Amite River Basin primarily has flooding from two different  
9 sources, the upper and lower basin; and

10 WHEREAS, the upper basin flooding is caused from headwater flooding from  
11 rainfall events; and

12 WHEREAS, the Amite River Basin was particularly impacted by the catastrophic  
13 flood of 2016; and

14 WHEREAS, the Stormwater Master plan was launched in 2017 to address drainage  
15 problems in the most efficient and effective way possible for citizens; and

16 WHEREAS, the plan will be developed in three phases, each phase including  
17 numerous activities; and

18 WHEREAS, nearly all current efforts are focused solely on improving drainage to  
19 the point of exceeding the physical capacities of the lower watershed, and a responsible  
20 alternative is necessary; and

1           WHEREAS, the Comite River Diversion Canal Project is underway to alleviate  
2 flooding that affects thousands of residents; and

3           WHEREAS, alleviating flooding in the Amite River is an essential component in  
4 preparation for the next major rain event.

5           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
6 urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to evaluate all potential  
7 areas in the upper Amite River Basin on the potential to detain and retain stormwater runoff  
8 through a system of structures.

9           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the study shall consist of the upper Amite River  
10 Basin North of the I-12 corridor where detention or retention of storm water runoff could  
11 have a positive and meaningful impact on the volume and timing of stormwater reaching the  
12 middle and lower Amite River Basin.

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the study shall determine if water supply sources and  
14 recreational facilities are able to be incorporated into the detention and retention structures  
15 and shall consider, at a minimum, the following:

16           (1) The development of a plan of managed storage or retention in sufficient volumes  
17 to reduce flood impact to downstream areas for multiple storm sizes and durations, including  
18 the development of conceptual designs and potential system operation guidance to minimize  
19 flows downstream.

20           (2) The evaluation of impacts by incorporating existing and proposed drainage  
21 improvements to quantify effects on the entire watershed.

22           (3) An evaluation of how benefits of detention and retention in the upper Amite  
23 River Basin could support further efforts to improve drainage or flood control efforts in the  
24 lower Amite River Basin.

25           (4) A determination of the viability of water supply and recreational facilities at each  
26 detention and retention structure.

27           (5) A determination of the social and economic impacts and benefits both upstream  
28 and downstream of each structure.

1 (6) An evaluation of the environmental impacts and benefits upstream and  
2 downstream from each structure and an evaluation of the potential impacts and benefits to  
3 the aquifers.

4 (7) The development of the feasibility of design and construction with cost estimates  
5 of the detention and retention structures, in compliance R.S. 38:21.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and  
7 Development shall recognize and acknowledge the efforts completed by others by utilizing  
8 recently collected data, modeling efforts, and previous studies to reduce duplication of effort  
9 and accelerate the study process.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and  
11 Development shall provide a written report detailing the completion timeline and the  
12 associated costs for the evaluation of the upper Amite River Basin to the chairman of the  
13 House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and the chairman of the  
14 Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works by January 1, 2024.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
16 secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

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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)]

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HCR 145 Original

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Hodges

Urges and requests the Dept. of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to evaluate all potential areas of the upper Amite River Basin as well as estimates of costs associated and a completion date. Requires the DOTD provide a written report detailing the evaluation and funding requirements for the upper Amite River Basin to the chairman of Senate and House transportation committees by Jan. 1, 2024.