

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 150

BY REPRESENTATIVES PYLANT AND GAROFALO AND SENATOR THOMPSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Natural Resources, office of conservation, in consultation with the 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 of water wells and to submit the report and recommendation to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources on or before February 15, 2014.

WHEREAS, the water resources of the state are a precious natural resource necessary for public health, safety, and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, the water resources of the state and the United States, generally, are in high demand and are in need of conservation and protection; and

WHEREAS, an important aspect of conservation and protection of our water resources is ensuring that only qualified water well drillers install water wells, not only for the sake of their customers, but also for the general public; and

WHEREAS, every person, firm, or corporation engaged, or desiring to engage in the business of drilling water wells is by law required to be licensed; and

WHEREAS, despite the current demand for water well drillers, the decline in the number of licensed water well drillers has outpaced new drillers; and

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Natural Resources, office of conservation, in consultation with the Water Resources Commission, to propose recommendations to address the concerns of the availability of qualified water well drillers and its impact on the rates charged, changes, if any, to the rules and regulations on the licensing of qualified water well drillers, including but not limited to changes to qualifications, the two-year apprentice requirement, and the testing of prospective water well drillers, to ensure that the state's precious natural water resources are protected for public health, safety, and economic well-being, and report any such recommendations to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources by February 15, 2014.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE