

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 159

BY REPRESENTATIVE PATRICK WILLIAMS

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Urges and requests the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to study
Giant Salvinia

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the methods of
3 controlling and eradicating Giant Salvinia and to report with recommendations of the
4 most cost-effective method, or combination of methods, to the House Committee on
5 Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources
6 on or before February 15, 2014.

7 WHEREAS, *Salvinia Molesta* is the formal name for the invasive aquatic species
8 Giant Salvinia that is a rapidly proliferating aquatic fern that can double in size in a week
9 to ten days, and, in three months, can expand to cover forty square miles and form mats three
10 feet thick; and

11 WHEREAS, Giant Salvinia is a free-floating aquatic fern native to Brazil and was
12 brought into the United States by the aquarium and water garden industry; and

13 WHEREAS, Giant Salvinia has been found in nearly every public waterbody in
14 northwest Louisiana and continues to spread to other areas of the state; and

15 WHEREAS, the control and eventual removal of this evasive plant is absolutely
16 necessary if Louisiana is to control and maintain its waterways; and

17 WHEREAS, Giant Salvinia is very difficult to control with direct and aerial
18 application of foliar herbicide applications because the leaves have specialized hairs that are
19 very efficient at keeping water off the leaf making it very difficult for herbicides to be
20 absorbed by the plant; and

1 WHEREAS, herbicide applications only affect the top layer of the up to three foot
2 mat of plant material, and the mats float and move on the surface making consistent
3 reapplication of herbicide difficult; and

4 WHEREAS, other methods of control have included introduction of grass carp and
5 weevils to consume the plants, draining lakes and drying the lake bottom, and the use of
6 mechanical harvesters.

7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
8 urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the methods of
9 controlling and eradicating Giant Salvinia and to report with recommendations of the most
10 cost-effective method, or combination of methods, to the House Committee on Natural
11 Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources on or before
12 February 15, 2014.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
14 secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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)]

Patrick Williams

HCR No. 159

Urges and requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the methods of controlling and eradicating Giant Salvinia and to report with recommendations the most cost-effective method, or combination of methods, to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources on or before Feb. 15, 2014.