2022 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY REPRESENTATIVE BISHOP

WATERWAYS/LAKES: Urges and requests that the Department of Environmental Quality report to the legislature regarding Capitol Lake remediation

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Department of Environmental Quality to report to the legislature
3	regarding requirements for remediation of Capitol Lake.
4	WHEREAS, Capitol Lake, including its smaller component located to the south and
5	east, has a long and storied history including having once been known as Bayou Garrison,
6	named for the garrisons along its banks, which was a strategic element of the Battle of Baton
7	Rouge in August of 1862; and
8	WHEREAS, the bayou was eventually closed off from the Mississippi River which
9	created the lake known now as Capitol Lake, named for its location directly north of the
10	Louisiana State Capitol; and
11	WHEREAS, in the past Capitol Lake was used for wastewater disposal and as a
12	drainage basin for commercial and industrial facilities and roadways located nearby the lake;
13	and
14	WHEREAS, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the concentration of polychlorinated
15	biphenyls was so high that signs were posted along the banks of the lake warning people not
16	to consume fish taken from the lake; and
17	WHEREAS, the legislature has previously requested and received studies regarding
18	the history and condition of the lake and the work necessary for remediation, including
19	reports and recommendations from the Capitol Lakes Task Force and a remedial
20	investigation by the Department of Environmental Quality's Inactive and Abandoned Sites
21	Division; and

WHEREAS, with continued siltation and evaporation of the water during drought
 conditions, the lakes are beginning to silt in and degrade even further; and

WHEREAS, inhabitation by non-native species such as the vitruvian duck, or
mexican whistler, may lead to further degradation of the already fragile habitat of Capitol
Lake; and

6 WHEREAS, preventing inhabitation by these non-native species has become a state 7 priority, as evidenced by recent actions of the speaker of the House of Representatives to 8 authorize himself and one other member of the House of Representatives to take their legal 9 limit of such ducks from Capitol Lake during the course of one calendar day per year, during 10 the legal hunting season, provided that such ducks are not prepared for human consumption. 11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 12 urge and request the Department of Environmental Quality to report to the legislature what 13 actions and resources would be required to remediate Capitol Lake and to make the water 14 quality appropriate as a freshwater habitat for native species.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Environmental Quality may make use of the expertise of other state agencies, particularly the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Department of Natural Resources, and the State Land Office, and that these state agencies shall lend their expertise to the Department of Environmental Quality for this report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report be submitted to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, and the Senate Committee on Finance no later than March 1, 2023.

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)]

HCR 24 Engrossed	2022 Regular Session	Bishop
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Requests that the Dept. of Environmental Quality submit a written report to the legislature regarding actions and resources required to remediate Capitol Lake and to make the water quality appropriate as a freshwater habitat for native species.

Requires that the report be submitted to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, and the Senate Committee on Finance no later than March 1, 2023.