

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 39

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

TRANSPORTATION: To continue the Comite River Diversion Canal Task Force for the purpose of studying and making recommendations on the actions necessary to complete the Comite River Diversion Canal Project

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To continue the Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force that was created pursuant
3 to House Concurrent Resolution No. 51 of the 2014 Regular Session of the
4 Legislature of Louisiana and continued by House Concurrent Resolution No. 66 of
5 the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana to study and make
6 recommendations on actions necessary to complete the construction of the Comite
7 River Diversion Canal Project.

8 WHEREAS, the Amite River and its tributary, the Comite River, are major causes
9 of catastrophic flooding in the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Area, particularly in the
10 northeastern part of East Baton Rouge Parish; and

11 WHEREAS, during the flood of 1983, substantial portions of the parishes of East
12 Baton Rouge, Livingston, and Ascension were inundated with flood waters; and

13 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project is to divert
14 flood waters from the upper Comite River to the Mississippi River; and

15 WHEREAS, at its maximum capacity, the project will divert twenty thousand cubic
16 feet per second by gravity flow; and

17 WHEREAS, once completed, the Comite River Diversion Canal could divert fifty
18 percent of the flood waters from the upper Comite River, which would substantially reduce
19 flood stages along the lower Comite and Amite Rivers; and

1 WHEREAS, as a result, flood insurance premiums would be dramatically reduced
2 in the area, which would boost home ownership and the overall economy of the region; and

3 WHEREAS, this is a major reason why the task force should continue its work; and

4 WHEREAS, following the displacement of thousands of residents from the New
5 Orleans area after Hurricane Katrina, East Baton Rouge Parish has experienced an explosive
6 population growth and is now the most populous parish in the state, making the Comite
7 River Diversion Canal Project all the more important and urgently significant.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
9 extend the Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force to meet and make
10 recommendations to the legislature and the appropriate state and federal agencies on actions
11 necessary to complete the construction and maintenance of the Comite River Diversion
12 Canal Project, including strategies to comply with mitigation requirements and right-of-way
13 acquisitions.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be comprised of the
15 following members:

16 (1) One member shall be the member of the House of Representatives, appointed by
17 the speaker of the House, whose district is directly impacted by the Comite River Diversion
18 Canal Project and who shall be the chairman of the task force.

19 (2) One member shall be the member of the Senate, appointed by the president of
20 the Senate, whose district is directly impacted by the Comite River Diversion Canal Project
21 and who shall be the vice chairman of the task force.

22 (3) One member shall be appointed by the members of the Louisiana congressional
23 delegation representing the district in which the Comite River Diversion Canal Project is
24 located.

25 (4) One member shall be the district engineer of the United States Army Corps of
26 Engineers, New Orleans District, or his designee.

27 (5) One member shall be the secretary of the Department of Transportation and
28 Development, or his designee.

29 (6) One member shall be the executive director of the Coastal Protection and
30 Restoration Authority, or his designee.

1 (7) One member shall be a former member of the Amite River Basin Drainage and
2 Water Conservation District board of commissioners appointed by the chairman of the task
3 force.

4 (8) One member shall be a current member of the Amite River Basin Drainage and
5 Water Conservation District board of commissioners appointed by the chairman of the task
6 force.

7 (9) One member shall be the director of the Department of Public Works of East
8 Baton Rouge Parish, or his designee.

9 (10) One member shall be a home builder within the area impacted by the Comite
10 River Diversion Canal Project appointed by the president of the Louisiana Home Builders
11 Association.

12 (11) One member shall be a realtor in the area impacted by the Comite River
13 Diversion Canal Project appointed by the Louisiana Realtors Association.

14 (12) One member shall be a representative of the Federal Emergency Management
15 Agency (FEMA) appointed by the director of FEMA's Louisiana Recovery Office.

16 (13) One member shall be a landowner in the area impacted by the Comite River
17 Diversion Canal Project appointed by the Louisiana Landowners Association.

18 (14) One member shall be the state representative representing District 63.

19 (15) One member shall be the state senator representing District 15.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall meet at least on a biannual
21 basis and thereafter shall hold such meetings as deemed appropriate by a majority of the task
22 force.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit recommendations to
24 the appropriate legislative committees, as necessary.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this task force will continue to be staffed by the
26 House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works staff for all meetings of
27 the task force.

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 39 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Hodges

Continues the Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force for the purpose of studying and making recommendations to the legislature on actions necessary to complete the construction of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project. Provides that the committee submit recommendations to the appropriate legislative committees, as necessary. Provides that the task force will be staffed by the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works.

Provides that the task force be composed of the following members:

- (1) One member shall be the member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker, within whose district the Comite River Diversion Canal Project is located and who shall be the chairman of the task force.
- (2) One member shall be the member of the Senate, appointed by the president, within whose district the Comite River Diversion Canal Project is located and who shall be the vice chairman of the task force.
- (3) One member shall be appointed by the members of the Louisiana congressional delegation representing the district in which the Comite River Diversion Canal Project is located.
- (4) One member shall be the district engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, or his designee.
- (5) One member shall be the secretary of the Dept. of Transportation and Development, or his designee.
- (6) One member shall be the executive director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, or his designee.
- (7) One member shall be a former member of the Amite River Basin board of commissioners appointed by the chairman of the task force.
- (8) One member shall be a current member of the Amite River Basin board of commissioners appointed by the chairman of the task force.
- (9) One member shall be the director of the Dept. of Public Works of East Baton Rouge Parish, or his designee.
- (10) One member shall be a homebuilder within the area impacted by the Comite River Diversion Canal Project appointed by the president of the Louisiana Homebuilder's Association.
- (11) One member shall be a realtor in the area impacted by the Comite River Diversion Canal Project appointed by the Louisiana Realtors Association.
- (12) One member shall be a representative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) appointed by the director of FEMA's Louisiana Recovery Office.
- (13) One member shall be a landowner in the area impacted by the Comite River Diversion Canal Project appointed by the Louisiana Landowners Association.

(14) One member shall be the state representative representing District 63.

(15) One member shall be the state senator representing District 15.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill:

1. Make a technical change.