

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 70

BY REPRESENTATIVES WHITE, BOURRIAQUE, BUTLER, CARRIER, CORMIER,  
DEVILLIER, FREEMAN, KERNER, MINCEY, ORGERON, RISER,  
SCHAMERHORN, AND WHEAT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the lieutenant governor, the secretary of state, the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission, the Louisiana Municipal Association, and the Police Jury Association of Louisiana to encourage and assist with local collection and recycling of campaign signs.

WHEREAS, in the last ten years, over 28,000 people have qualified to run for public office in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, campaign signs made of corrugated plastic and metal stands are a primary tool for campaign advertising; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 30:2544 requires that candidates remove campaign signs from public rights-of-way within thirty days following a general election; and

WHEREAS, it is in the state's interest to recycle these signs to keep Louisiana's environment clean and minimize waste; and

WHEREAS, it is not practicable for local waste management services to collect and recycle campaign signs from household bins; and

WHEREAS, corrugated plastic must be collected in bulk and then sold to companies that can recycle the plastic into new materials and products; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Tre' Bishop initiated a successful collaboration with the Lafayette Consolidated Government, Republic Services, and LA Scrap Metal on a pilot project to collect used campaign signs and have them recycled; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to expand the initiative for the 2020 campaign cycle, Mr. Bishop worked with area mayors and added sign recycling drop-off sites in several cities in the Acadiana region; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bishop also enlisted other children and Beta clubs to help collect signs for recycling; and

WHEREAS, one of the drop-off sites located in Lafayette, Louisiana collected enough campaign signs during the 2020 initiative to fill both a 30 yard and a 6 yard dumpster; and

WHEREAS, after separating the plastic signs from their metal stands, LA Scrap Metal was able to accept all of the stands and Republic Services was able to collect, process, and bail all of the corrugated plastic signs and transfer them to a recycling facility; and

WHEREAS, the polypropylene that corrugated plastic signs are made of is recycled into resin pellets which can then be used in automotive, agricultural, construction, and recreational applications and to make pipes, sheets, flexible packaging, paint and coating containers, and beauty and personal care packaging, and the metal stands can be reused or recast as new materials; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bishop's initiative has garnered the support of the lieutenant governor, the secretary of state, local mayors, Keep Louisiana Beautiful, and Parish Proud; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 30:2544 provides that local governing authorities should make reasonable efforts to recycle litter, including campaign signs, collected from litter-free zones; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bishop's campaign sign recycling initiative has proven that campaign sign recycling is feasible and can be accomplished at the local level, it can lead to the generation of recycled household products rather than additional solid waste, and sets an example which may be used as a model throughout the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the lieutenant governor, the secretary of state, the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission, the Louisiana Municipal Association, and the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, to work with local governing authorities to establish and promote local recycling events for the collection and processing of used campaign signs and to coordinate with local waste management services for pickup and recycling of the signs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of state should print information regarding the removal, reuse, and recycling of campaign signs to be included with qualifying packets given to candidates statewide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the lieutenant governor, the secretary of state, the chairman of the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission, the executive director of the Louisiana Municipal Association, and the president of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE