

BY REPRESENTATIVE FOIL

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create the Land Acquisition Task Force charged with the responsibility of developing a

3 comprehensive state plan for funding the acquisition of Louisiana's critical natural

4 habitats in an effort to conserve the state's extensive and critical wetlands.

5 WHEREAS, Louisiana contains four million acres of wetlands, representing forty

6 percent of the nation's total acres of wetlands; and

7 WHEREAS, Louisiana loses almost 16.6 square miles annually, the equivalent of

8 one football field every hour; and

9 WHEREAS, this wetland loss is recognized both nationally and statewide as a

10 significant crisis which must be addressed; and

11 WHEREAS, every 2.7 miles of wetlands absorb an average of one foot of storm

12 surge, thus creating a natural buffer zone for the infrastructure and communities located in

13 the coastal zone; and

14 WHEREAS, countless wildlife, including migratory waterfowl, depend on

15 Louisiana's coastal and forested wetlands for the existence, as well as the environmental

16 quality of Louisiana's air and water depend on these wetlands; and

17 WHEREAS, the recreational and economic importance of both the coastal marshes

18 and the forested wetlands of Louisiana cannot be replaced; and

19 WHEREAS, an important component of protection of most habitats will be direct

20 acquisition by the state; and

1 WHEREAS, there is a need to identify funding sources for an active state land
2 acquisition program.

3 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
4 create the Land Acquisition Task Force charged with the responsibility of developing a
5 comprehensive state plan for funding the acquisition of Louisiana's critical natural habitats
6 as identified by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. This comprehensive plan may
7 include any number of funding mechanisms which would be appropriate in acquiring those
8 critical natural habitats for conservation of the state's extensive and critical natural resources.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Land Acquisition Task Force shall be
10 composed of the following members:

11 (1) The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, or his designee.

12 (2) The executive assistant for the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities, or his
13 designee.

14 (3) The commissioner of agriculture and forestry, or his designee.

15 (4) The commissioner of the division of administration or her designee.

16 (5) The secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, or his
17 designee.

18 (6) The secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, or his designee.

19 (7) The secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, or her designee.

20 (8) A representative of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

21 (9) A representative of the Delta chapter of the Sierra Club.

22 (10) A representative of the Nature Conservancy of Louisiana.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that task force members shall serve without
24 compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be individually
25 entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the first meeting of the task force shall be called
27 by the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and at this meeting the task
28 force shall elect a chairman and vice chairman.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall meet as necessary and shall
30 submit the comprehensive plan to the House Committee on Natural Resources and

- 1 Environment, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, the speaker of the House, and
2 the Senate president no later than February 1, 2014.
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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)]

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HCR No. 95

Creates the Land Acquisition Task Force charged with the responsibility of developing a comprehensive state plan for funding the acquisition of Louisiana's critical natural habitats in an effort to conserve the state's extensive and critical wetlands.

The task force members shall serve without compensation, except they may receive per diem or expenses as members of their constituent organizations. The membership shall be composed of the following:

- (1) The secretary of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, or his designee.
- (2) The executive assistant for the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities, or his designee.
- (3) The commissioner of agriculture and forestry, or his designee.
- (4) The commissioner of the division of administration or his designee.
- (5) The secretary of the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, or his designee.
- (6) The secretary of the Dept. of Natural Resources, or his designee.
- (7) The secretary of the Dept. of Environmental Quality, or his designee.
- (8) A representative of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.
- (9) A representative of the Delta chapter of the Sierra Club.
- (10) A representative of the Nature Conservancy of Louisiana.

The first meeting shall be called by the secretary of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries where the chairman and vice chairman shall be elected.

The task force shall meet as necessary and shall submit the plan to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, the speaker of the House, and the Senate president no later than Feb. 1, 2014.