

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 59

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the legislative auditor to conduct an audit of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge.

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (BREC) was created by Act No. 246 of the 1946 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature; and

WHEREAS, BREC is responsible for the maintenance, management, and control of all parks, playgrounds, play fields, or other property permanently devoted to recreational purposes located within East Baton Rouge Parish; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the costs associated with the construction and maintenance of BREC facilities has continued to escalate, particularly after the significant damage caused by the historic flooding in August 2016; and

WHEREAS, although BREC receives millions of dollars in funding annually from local property taxes, many of its facilities have fallen into disrepair, including the Baton Rouge Zoo, which recently lost its accreditation in large part due to outdated facilities; and

WHEREAS, many questions have been raised recently regarding the expenditures of BREC, including payments to private entities that purportedly promote BREC facilities and related activities; and

WHEREAS, many have voiced concerns about the high rate of turnover in BREC's finance department which has contributed to a lack of oversight of the commission's finances resulting in many accounting errors; and

WHEREAS, although the accounting method used by BREC is not uncommon in the nonprofit and government sectors, over the years the BREC bureaucracy has grown and the number of millages it receives has increased and thus the method has become unwieldy; and

WHEREAS, for many years the BREC administration has been unwilling to invest in new accounting software or implement up-to-date accounting methods and as a consequence has become less able to efficiently manage its money; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana wishes to request the legislative auditor to conduct a full and complete audit of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge so that the citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish can have confidence that the commission is being managed as efficiently as possible.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the legislative auditor to conduct an audit of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (BREC).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana requests that as part of this audit, the legislative auditor examine the economy, efficiency, usefulness, and effectiveness of all studies commissioned by BREC since January 1, 2013.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana also requests that the legislative auditor identify and analyze the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of all contracts that have been entered into by BREC since January 1, 2013, with any individual or entity, including but not limited to all professional, general, noncompliance bid, and competitive bid contracts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana also requests the legislative auditor examine, list, and report on the progress and any need for future funding for completion of current projects as well as proposed projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state legislative auditor and the superintendent of the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES