

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE STUDY REQUEST NO. 3
BY REPRESENTATIVE LAMBERT

Approved
6-7-10

ENVIRONMENT/LITTERING: Requests the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to study the effects of recycling, enforcement, and education on litter reduction

1 A STUDY REQUEST

2 To the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to study the effects of
3 recycling, enforcement, and education on reducing litter, and to report its findings
4 to the House of Representatives prior to the convening of the 2011 Regular Session
5 of the Legislature.

6 WHEREAS, litter is a major problem in this state that negatively effects our
7 environment, our communities, and, both directly and indirectly, our economy; and

8 WHEREAS, litter impacts the environment through habitat destruction in marine and
9 aquatic ecosystems and to pet and wildlife injury and death due to litter entanglement,
10 toxicity, and ingestion; and

11 WHEREAS, litter is a breeding ground for vermin and disease-causing bacteria; and

12 WHEREAS, litter impacts the public safety in ways ranging from roadside fires
13 caused by discarded cigarettes to neighborhoods that are heavily littered experience more
14 vandalism and other crime; and

15 WHEREAS, according to a recent study commissioned by Keep Louisiana Beautiful,
16 the direct economic impact of paying to have litter collected and disposed costs local and
17 state government forty million dollars per year; and

18 WHEREAS, this forty-million-dollar-per-year price tag is in addition to other direct
19 costs incurred for enforcing litter laws and developing programs and advertisements
20 encouraging and educating Louisiana citizens on the dangers of litter and the indirect

1 economic impacts including real estate devaluation, loss of new industry and business, and
2 loss of tourism and ecotourism; and

3 WHEREAS, in an effort to combat litter and to return material into commerce that
4 would otherwise occupy landfill space as solid waste, several states have enacted bottle
5 deposit programs to create an incentive for consumers to return beverage containers which
6 make up a large portion of litter; and

7 WHEREAS, bottle deposit programs provide entrepreneurial opportunities for small
8 businesses including the establishment of recycle collection centers and the sale, lease, and
9 maintenance of reverse vending machines; and

10 WHEREAS, in the committee debate of House Bill No. 760 by Representative
11 Lambert which proposed to enact such a bottle deposit program, members expressed interest
12 in examining the totality of the litter problem and other approaches to addressing the issue.

13 THEREFORE, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana requests
14 the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to study the effects of
15 recycling, enforcement, and education on reducing litter, and to report its findings to the
16 House of Representatives prior to the convening of the 2011 Regular Session of the
17 Legislature.

DIGEST

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Lambert

HSR No. 3

Requests the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to study the effects of recycling, enforcement, and education on reducing litter, and to report its findings to the House of Representatives prior to the convening of the 2011 R.S.