

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 124

BY SENATOR THOMPSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To establish and provide for a group to study the use and application of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles ("UAVS" or "drones") for agricultural purposes and to recommend any action or legislation that the study group deems necessary or appropriate.

WHEREAS, the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International predicts that eighty percent of the commercial market for drones will eventually be for agricultural uses; and

WHEREAS, once the Federal Aviation Administration establishes guidelines for commercial use, the drone industry expects more than one hundred thousand jobs to be created and nearly half a billion in tax revenue to be generated by 2025, much of it from agriculture purposes; and

WHEREAS, drones equipped with infrared cameras, sensors and other technology collect invaluable data which can identify insect problems, spot watering issues, assess crop yields and track down cattle that have wandered off; and

WHEREAS, farmers can also use drones to tailor their use of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer and other applications, known as precision agriculture, which saves the grower from unnecessarily overusing resources, while at the same time reducing the amount of runoff into nearby rivers and streams; and

WHEREAS, there are many areas of concern in the UAV agriculture industry yet to be addressed or studied including risks to crop dusters and the need for visual markers, registration, licensing, and enforcement requirements, limits on altitude and size, flight plan registration, and training courses; and

WHEREAS, a study of these issues and concerns is essential for the continued development and success of this sector of Louisiana's agricultural economy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby creates the Agriculture Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Study Group to study the use and application of UAVS or drones for agricultural purposes and to recommend any action or legislation that the study group deems necessary or appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group created herein shall include the following members:

- (1) The vice president of agriculture from Louisiana State University or his designee.
- (2) The chancellor of the Southern University Agricultural Center or his designee.
- (3) The president of the University of Louisiana at Monroe or his designee.
- (4) A representative from the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.
- (5) The commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry or his designee.
- (6) A representative of the Louisiana Agriculture Aviation Association.
- (7) A representative of the Louisiana Landowners Association, Inc.
- (8) A representative of the Louisiana Agriculture Consultants Association.
- (9) A representative of the Louisiana Forestry Association.
- (10) The president of Louisiana Farm Bureau or his designee.
- (11) A representative from the Federal Aviation Administration.
- (12) The chair and vice chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture and Rural Development or their designees.
- (13) The chair and vice chair of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture and Rural Development or their designees.
- (14) A representative of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.
- (15) A representative of the office of state police.
- (16) The chairman of the study group may appoint additional members as deemed appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the study group shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of the constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the total membership shall

constitute a quorum and any official action by the study group shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group shall elect a chair at the first meeting and may conduct such meetings at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to accomplish the objectives and purposes of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event that the study group makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made to the legislature no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2015 Regular Session.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES