SLS 24RS-943 ORIGINAL

2024 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25

BY SENATOR HODGES

FLOODS/FLOODING. Creates the Comite River Diversion Canal/Amite River Basin Task Force.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To create the Comite River Diversion Canal/Amite River Basin Task Force and to authorize
3	the task force to study and make recommendations on actions necessary to complete
4	construction of the Comite River Diversion Project and mitigate flooding caused by
5	the Comite and Amite rivers.
6	WHEREAS, the Amite River and its tributary, the Comite River, are major causes
7	of catastrophic flooding in the Greater Baton Rouge Metropolitan Area and all impacted
8	downstream communities of East Baton Rouge Parish, Livingston Parish, and Ascension
9	Parish; and
10	WHEREAS, during the floods of 1983 and 2016, substantial portions of the parishes
11	of East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and Ascension were inundated with flood waters; and
12	WHEREAS, the purpose of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project is to divert
13	flood waters from the upper Comite River to the Mississippi River; at its maximum capacity,
14	the project will divert twenty thousand cubic feet per second by gravity flow; and
15	WHEREAS, once completed, the Comite River Diversion Canal could divert fifty
16	percent of the flood waters from the upper Comite River, which would substantially reduce
17	flood stages along the lower Comite and Amite rivers; and
18	WHEREAS, following the displacement of thousands of residents from the New

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1	Orleans area after Hurricane Katrina, East Baton Rouge Parish experienced an explosive
2	population growth and is now the most populous parish in the state, making the Comite
3	River Diversion Canal Project all the more important and urgently significant; and
4	WHEREAS, the work of the task force originally began pursuant to House
5	Concurrent Resolution No. 51 of the 2014 Regular Session and continued pursuant to House
6	Concurrent Resolution No. 66 of the 2015 Regular Session, House Concurrent Resolution
7	No. 39 of the 2016 Regular Session, House Concurrent Resolution No. 90 of the 2019
8	Regular Session, House Concurrent Resolution No. 62 of the 2020 Regular Session, and
9	House Concurrent Resolution No. 17 of the 2022 Regular Session.
10	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
11	create the Comite River Diversion Canal/Amite River Basin Task Force and authorizes the
12	task force to meet and make recommendations to the legislature and the appropriate state and
13	federal agencies on actions necessary to complete the construction and maintenance of the
14	Comite River Diversion Canal Project, including strategies to comply with mitigation
15	requirements and right-of-way acquisitions, mitigation of flooding caused by the Comite
16	River, other required mitigation projects and flood plain planning throughout the Amite
17	River Basin, and the actions of the watershed initiative pertaining to the Amite River Basin
18	to maintain transparency to the citizens of the Amite River Basin.
19	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be comprised of the
20	following members:
21	(1) The state senator for Senate District 13, who shall serve as the chairman of the
22	task force.
23	(2) Two members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate whose
24	districts are directly impacted by the Amite River Basin.
25	(3) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the
26	House of Representatives whose district corresponds with Senate District 13, who shall serve
27	as the vice chairman of the task force.
28	(4) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the
29	House of Representatives, whose districts are directly impacted by the Amite River Basin.

(5) One member appointed by the members of the Louisiana congressional

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2	(6) The secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, or his
3	designee.
4	(7) The executive director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, or his
5	designee.
6	(8) One member appointed by the chairman of the task force who is a former member
7	of the AmiteRiverBasinDrainageandWaterConservationDistrictboardofcommissioners.
8	(9) One member appointed by the director of the Louisiana Geological Survey.
9	(10) The director of the Department of Public Works of East Baton Rouge Parish,
10	or his designee.
11	(11) One member appointed by the president of the Louisiana Home Builders
12	Association, who is a home builder within the area impacted by the Amite River Basin
13	District.
14	(12) One member appointed by Louisiana REALTORS who is a realtor in the area
15	impacted by the Amite River Basin District.
16	(13) One member appointed by the director of the Federal Emergency Management
17	Agency (FEMA) Louisiana Recovery Office.
18	(14) One member appointed by the Louisiana Landowners Association, Incorporated,
19	who is a landowner in the area impacted by the Amite River Basin District.
20	(15) One member appointed by the president of the board of commissioners for the
21	Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District.
22	(16) The executive director of the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors,
23	or his designee.
24	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit the
25	names of designees appointed to the task force to the chairperson no later than June 30,
26	2024.
27	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force shall convene its first meeting no later
28	than July 31, 2024, at the call of chairperson.
29	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a
30	quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the

delegation representing the district in which the Amite River Basin is located.

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affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall receive staff support from the Senate and may receive additional assistance from one or more of the entities from which the task force membership is designated or appointed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit recommendations to the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works no later than February 1, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on the date of the submission of its report or April 13, 2025, whichever occurs first.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the Louisiana congressional delegation representing the district in which the Amite River Basin is located, the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, the executive director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the president of the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District, the director of the Louisiana Geological Survey, the director of the Department of Public Works of East Baton Rouge Parish, the president of the Louisiana Home Builders Association, the president of Louisiana REALTORS, the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Louisiana Recovery Office, the president of the Louisiana Landowners Association, Inc., and the executive director of the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Archana D. Cadge.

DIGEST 2024 Regular Session

SCR 25 Original

Hodges

Creates the Comite River Diversion Canal/Amite River Basin Task Force.

Provides for membership, authority, responsibilities, staffing and termination of the task force.