SLS 18RS-856 ORIGINAL

2018 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 80

BY SENATOR CHABERT

COASTAL PARISHES. Requests the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to conduct a science-based study of the adequacy of the current inland boundary of the coastal zone of Louisiana.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to conduct a science-
3	based study of the adequacy of the current inland boundary of the coastal zone of
4	Louisiana to meet the state's current and future needs to manage, protect, and restore
5	its coastal resources.
6	WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has had a federally approved Coastal Zone
7	Management Program since October 1980, which has been instrumental in improving
8	stewardship and protecting the state's coastal wetlands and resources in addition to
9	increasing public awareness of the importance of coastal wetlands to the economy of the
10	state and to the well-being of coastal residents; and
11	WHEREAS, the coastal zone of Louisiana supports numerous natural and economic
12	resources critical to the national economy, including energy and maritime infrastructure and
13	resources, and commercial and recreational fisheries; and
14	WHEREAS, the coastal zone is home to a high percentage of the state's population
15	and generates over fifty percent of the state's annual revenues; and
16	WHEREAS, the inland boundary of the coastal zone of Louisiana is defined in R.S.
17	49:214.24; and
18	WHEREAS, since the establishment of the inland boundary of the coastal zone

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1	nearly forty years ago, there have been significant events and changes, including degradation
2	and deterioration of the state's coast, devastating impacts from numerous hurricanes, the
3	adoption of Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast, increasing
4	awareness, and availability of data concerning climatic changes and sea-level rise, improved
5	understanding of storm patterns, establishment of other coastal programs and boundaries,
6	such as the Louisiana coastal area and the conservation boundary, and an unprecedented
7	level of funding being applied to integrated coastal protection and restoration projects; and
8	WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the Legislature of Louisiana to reevaluate the
9	adequacy of the state's inland boundary of the coastal zone and consider a possible revision
10	of that boundary to better serve the current and future needs of our state; and
11	WHEREAS, coastal zone management is necessary and important to protect the
12	coastal wetlands and resources within the coastal zone, and the cost of protecting such
13	coastal wetlands and resources through coastal zone management is significantly less than
14	the cost to conserve, restore, or enhance such coastal wetlands and resources once they are
15	devastated or lost; and
16	WHEREAS, a study of this nature has not been conducted since last requested by the
17	legislature in 2009.
18	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
19	urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to conduct a science-based
20	study of the adequacy of the inland boundary of the coastal zone of Louisiana.
21	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study should provide information and
22	recommendations as to the current inland boundary's adequacy to meet the coastal zone
23	management needs of the state and its residents through upcoming decades.
24	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study should:
25	(1) Be science-based and rely on the latest available data and technology.
26	(2) Consider the existing legal framework at the state and national level and the
27	presence of other legally established lines of demarcation for other programs in Louisiana
28	related to coastal issues.

as salinity, tidal influence, storm surge, presence and type of wetlands, elevation of land,

(3) Consider physical, biological, and chemical and other scientific information such

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habitat value to fish and wildlife resources, subsidence and sea-level rise, potential for flooding, and any other relevant data.

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- (4) Take into account the value and importance of economic activity, including energy infrastructure, maritime transport, commercial and recreational fishing and hunting, agricultural and forestry interests, eco-tourism, and any other economic development activities important to the state.
- (5) Acknowledge and consider the value of archeological and cultural resources to coastal Louisiana.
- (6) Include recommendations to the legislature, including maps, of any suggested changes to laws, rules, and policies concerning the inland boundary of the coastal zone of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority shall submit the study to the Legislature of Louisiana on or before March 1, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the governor's executive assistant for coastal activities.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alan Miller.

DIGEST 2018 Regular Session

Chabert

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