

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 83

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Environmental Quality to study the establishment of a recycling and collection system for electronic waste in Louisiana and report its findings to the legislature.

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency estimated that in 2007, domestic consumers and businesses discarded televisions, computers, cell phones, and hard copy peripherals such as printers, scanners, and faxes in amounts totaling two million two hundred fifty thousand tons; and

WHEREAS, eighty-two percent of these discarded electronics were disposed of in domestic landfills or shipped to developing countries where it was, in most instances, improperly disposed of; and

WHEREAS, twenty-six states, as of 2011, had passed legislation mandating that statewide electronic waste collection and recycling systems be implemented, and some states banned the dumping of such waste in landfills; and

WHEREAS, the costs of collection and recycling of electronic wastes in many states is born by producers and manufacturers, while other states place the responsibility on consumers; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana, like nearly half of the nation, currently has no system in place for collection and recycling of electronic wastes and has no laws prohibiting the dumping of electronic wastes in landfills; and

WHEREAS, the issue of electronic waste and its disposal has exploded because of the revolution in technology and many advances in audio, visual, computing, and communications equipment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Environmental Quality to research and study the establishment of a recycling and collection system for electronic wastes in Louisiana, to determine how the costs of such a system should be funded, and to study the feasibility of banning the dumping of electronic wastes in landfills.

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ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall report its findings to the legislature on or before March 1, 2013.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE