HLS 10RS-3566 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2010

1

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 143

BY REPRESENTATIVE LAFONTA

EMERGENCY/ENVIRONMENTAL: Requests DEQ to investigate the governor of Louisiana's refusal to timely declare a state of emergency in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil rig

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Department of Environmental Quality to investigate the governor
3	of Louisiana's refusal to timely declare a state of emergency in response to the
4	deadly and tragic destruction of the Deepwater Horizon.
5	WHEREAS, on April 20, 2010, an explosion occurred on the rig Deepwater Horizon
6	which resulted in the fire that eventually sank the rig, killed at least eleven crewmen, and
7	threatens Louisiana's delicate coast and industries that rely on the coast with thousands of
8	barrels of oil spewing from five thousand feet on the ocean bottom; and
9	WHEREAS, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and
10	Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, et seq., confers upon the governor of Louisiana emergency powers
11	to deal with emergencies and disasters, including those caused by fire, flood, earthquake, or
12	other natural or man-made causes, in order to ensure that preparations of this state will be
13	adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters, and to preserve the natural resources
14	of the state, lives, and property of the people of the state of Louisiana; and
15	WHEREAS, when the governor determines that a disaster or emergency has
16	occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers him to declare a
17	state of emergency by executive order or proclamation; and
18	WHEREAS, a declaration of emergency is necessary to allow state agencies to
19	thoroughly prepare for and respond to any eventuality and to allow federal agencies and
20	federal resources to be deployed if necessary; and

1	WHEREAS, a declaration that a state of emergency exists is necessary due to the
2	predicted impact of oil along the Louisiana coast leaking from the Deepwater Horizon which
3	threatens the state's natural resources, including land, water, fish, wildlife, fowl, and other
4	biota and likewise threatens the livelihoods of Louisiana's citizens living along the coast
5	which increases the economic impact of this incident; and
6	WHEREAS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration models show the oil
7	spill could reach parts of the Louisiana coastline by Thursday, April 29, 2010, and proceed
8	into the Breton Sound and Chandeleur Sound by Saturday, May 1, 2010; at this time, the
9	Pass a L'Outre Wildlife Management Area is expected to see the first impact of the oil spill;
10	and
11	WHEREAS, a minimum of ten additional state and national wildlife management
12	areas and wildlife refuges in Louisiana and Mississippi are in the direct path of the oil plume
13	and can be expected to be impacted; the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary, Biloxi Wildlife
14	Management Area, the Breton National Wildlife Refuge, Buccaneer State Park (MS), the
15	Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge (MS), the Gulf Islands National Seashore National
16	Park (MS), Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge National Wildlife Refuge (MS), and Bon
17	Secour National Wildlife Refuge (MS) are all in the direct path of the plume; and
18	WHEREAS, Louisiana's coastline is comprised of 3.5 million acres of coastal
19	wetlands, which represent approximately forty percent of all the coastal wetlands in the
20	continental United States; furthermore, billions of dollars in ongoing coastal restoration
21	projects may be at risk because of this emergency; and
22	WHEREAS, the governor waited to declare a state of emergency until the afternoon
23	of April 29, 2010, four days after the disaster.
24	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
25	urge and request the Department of Environmental Quality to investigate the governor of
26	Louisiana's refusal to timely declare a state of emergency in response to the deadly and
27	tragic destruction of the Deepwater Horizon.
28	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
29	governor of Louisiana and the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

LaFonta HCR No. 143

Urges and requests the Dept. of Environmental Quality to investigate the governor of Louisiana's refusal to timely declare a state of emergency in response to the deadly and tragic destruction of the Deepwater Horizon.