

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.