HLS 10RS-2316 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2010

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 163

BY REPRESENTATIVE TEMPLET

UTILITIES: Requests the Public Service Commission to study and report on the formal adoption of the National Electrical Safety Code for the installation, operation, and maintenance of overhead and underground electrical facilities

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

| 2 | To urge and request the Louisiana Public Service Commission to study and report on the |
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| 3 | feasibility of adopting the National Electrical Safety Code for the installation, |
| 4 | operation, and maintenance of overhead and underground electrical facilities. |
| 5 | WHEREAS, a utility pole is a pole used to support overhead power lines and various |
| 6 | other public utilities and private facilities, such as cable, fiberoptic cable, and related |
| 7 | equipment such as transformers and street lights; and |
| 8 | WHEREAS, utility poles can be made of wood, metal, concrete, or composites like |
| 9 | fiberglass; and |
| 10 | WHEREAS, utility poles located in Louisiana are subjected to the potential |
| 11 | damaging effect of weather including extreme rain, extreme wind, ice storms, and |
| 12 | hurricanes; and |
| 13 | WHEREAS, damage to a utility pole and its attachments could potentially lead to |
| 14 | fires or injury to persons and property from falling poles, lines, or related equipment; and |
| 15 | WHEREAS, the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) is the standard for the safe |
| 16 | installation, operation, and maintenance of overhead and underground electrical utility |
| 17 | facilities nationwide; and |
| 18 | WHEREAS, Part II of the NESC deals with safety rules for the installation and |
| 19 | maintenance of overhead electric supply and communication lines, and it contains a number |
| 20 | of topics including inspections, arrangements, and clearances; and |
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| 1 | WHEREAS, electric utilities are required to maintain specific clearances between |
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| 2 | their overhead electrical wires and the ground below them including roadways, driveways, |
| 3 | parking lots, railroad tracks, and other services that may be found underneath wires; and |
| 4 | WHEREAS, in order to ensure that the required clearances are maintained after |
| 5 | initial installation, a considerable amount of the NESC is devoted to strength and structural |
| 6 | integrity issues; and |
| 7 | WHEREAS, the Louisiana Public Service Commission is empowered by Article IV, |
| 8 | Section 21(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana to regulate public utilities; and |
| 9 | WHEREAS, the Louisiana Public Service Commission has jurisdiction over publicly |
| 10 | owned utilities providing electric, water, waste water, natural gas, and telecommunications |
| 11 | services; and |
| 12 | WHEREAS, the Louisiana Public Service Commission is charged with ensuring a |
| 13 | regulatory balance that enables utilities to provide customers with safe, adequate, and |
| 14 | reliable services, at rates that are just, reasonable, equitable, and economically efficient; and |
| 15 | WHEREAS, in addition to the regulation provided by the Louisiana Public Service |
| 16 | Commission relative to electricity and other services, the commission is also in a unique |
| 17 | position to harmoniously interact with other regulatory agencies and local municipalities |
| 18 | which also provide oversight and enforcement in these areas; and |
| 19 | WHEREAS, the failure of a utility pole can cause a serious interruption of the |
| 20 | delivery of vital public utilities to the citizens of Louisiana; and |
| 21 | WHEREAS, an adequate, reliable, and reasonably priced supply of electricity and |
| 22 | other public utilities is essential to the continued economic prosperity of the state and its |
| 23 | citizens; and |
| 24 | WHEREAS, while the Louisiana Public Service Commission has not formally |
| 25 | adopted the National Electrical Safety Code, all electric utilities in Louisiana abide by the |
| 26 | NESC; and |
| 27 | WHEREAS, additionally, the staff of the Louisiana Public Service Commission uses |
| 28 | the NESC in investigations, when necessary. |
| 29 | THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby |
| 30 | urge and request the Louisiana Public Service Commission to study and report on the |

- 1 feasibility of adopting the National Electrical Safety Code for the installation, operation, and
- 2 maintenance of overhead and underground electrical facilities.
- 3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Public Service Commission shall
- 4 report its findings to the House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on
- 5 Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs prior to the final adjournment
- 6 of the 2011 Regular Session of the Legislature.
- 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
- 8 Louisiana Public Service Commission.

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)]

Templet HCR No. 163

Urges and requests the La. Public Service Commission to study and report on the feasibility of adopting the National Electrical Safety Code for the installation, operation, and maintenance of overhead and underground electrical facilities.

Requires the La. Public Service Commission to report its findings to the House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs prior to the final adjournment of the 2011 R.S. of the Legislature.