

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 197

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to study and make recommendations regarding the multijurisdictional funding of flood protection projects and to report the findings to the Senate and House committees on transportation, highways and public works, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, and the member of the House of Representatives representing House District Number 52 on or before December 31, 2016.

WHEREAS, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is established as the single state entity with authority to articulate a clear statement of priorities and to focus development and implementation efforts to achieve comprehensive coastal protection for Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is responsible for the inspection functions of levee and flood protection projects and flood control systems throughout Louisiana and for the construction, operation, and maintenance of coastal and watershed erosion projects throughout coastal Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, to provide aggressive state leadership, direction, and consonance in the development and implementation of policies, plans, and programs to achieve comprehensive integrated coastal protection, including the encouragement of multiple uses of the coastal area and to achieve a proper balance between development and conservation, restoration, creation, and nourishment of renewable coastal resources, the legislature places responsibility for the direction and development of the state's comprehensive master coastal

protection plan with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board within the office of the governor; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 49:214.5.2 requires the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board to represent the state's position in policy relative to the protection, conservation, enhancement, and restoration of the coastal area of the state through oversight of integrated coastal protection projects and programs and by addressing activities which require a coastal use permit, which could significantly affect integrated coastal protection projects and programs; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 49:214.1 charges the state of Louisiana with developing, implementing, and enforcing a comprehensive coastal protection plan, as well as ensuring that the plan incorporates a systems approach to integrate hurricane protection and coastal restoration efforts in order to achieve long-term and comprehensive integrated coastal protection; and

WHEREAS, protecting Louisiana's citizens and property from injury and damage by natural disasters, such as flooding, is a fundamental role of the state government as flooding poses significant threats to public health and safety, transportation corridors, and economic activities; and

WHEREAS, a multijurisdictional funding approach to flood protection projects involves a plan entered into jointly by more than one political subdivision or municipality to achieve sustainable, comprehensive flood protection in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana should consider establishing a proactive, multijurisdictional funding approach to fund flood protection projects in the state, which includes the ability to cross political subdivision lines to fund flood protection projects; and

WHEREAS, multijurisdictional funding would allow multiple local units of government to cooperate in the development of creative and strategic mechanisms for funding flood protection projects; and

WHEREAS, multijurisdictional funding of flood protection projects would serve to achieve an economy of scale and diversify flood protection reliability and sustainability.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration

Authority to study and make recommendations relative to multijurisdictional cost-share funding of flood protection projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study conducted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority shall include consideration and a determination of the following:

(1) Whether multijurisdictional funding of flood protection projects could benefit the state of Louisiana from a public health and safety, transportation, and economic perspective?

(2) Whether multijurisdictional funding of flood protection projects will assist in the improvement of citizen protection and managing or eliminating property damage?

(3) How multijurisdictional funding can assist the state in reducing or eliminating the risk or occurrence of flood damage and the long-term negative effects caused by flood damage in Louisiana?

(4) Whether multijurisdictional funding of flood protection projects would allow political subdivisions and municipalities to actively participate in prioritizing projects and partner on funding needs to solve issues, eliminate redundancies, and complete projects more efficiently?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority shall submit a written report to the House and Senate committees on transportation, highways and public works, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, and the member of the House of Representatives representing House District Number 52 detailing its findings and recommendations regarding multijurisdictional cost-share funding of flood protection projects on or before December 31, 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority work with staff of the Senate and House committees on transportation, highways and public works, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, and the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to develop legislation that proposes multijurisdictional funding of flood protection projects, if the results of the study reveal or illustrate such funding would be beneficial.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the executive director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES