

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 320

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAY MORRIS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to dedicate the economic damage proceeds from the Deepwater Horizon litigation allocated to the On-System Bridge Program for replacement and rehabilitation program for highway bridges on any federal-aid system over waterways, other topographical barriers, other highways, and railroads and for replacement and rehabilitation of highway bridges on state highways that are ineligible for federal highway funding assistance to Northeast Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill leaked four million one hundred thousand barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico making it the worst spill in United States history; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of the spill was far reaching affecting the fishing and tourism industries and requiring several billion dollars in clean-up costs; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has received the largest amount of reparation payments to compensate for economic damage and lost income, almost two billion six hundred thirty-six thousand dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Deepwater Horizon Economic Damages Collection Fund was established in the state treasury as a special permanent trust fund; and

WHEREAS, all economic damages proceeds from the Deepwater Horizon litigation in excess of the first two hundred million dollars deposited in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Deficit Elimination Fund shall be deposited by the state treasurer; and

WHEREAS, beginning July 1, 2021, and each fiscal year thereafter through and including Fiscal Year 2034, in such amounts as remain after payment of amounts due on

bonds and related expenses as provided in the documents pursuant to which bonds were issued, the state treasurer is required to immediately transfer the annual payments of fifty-three million three hundred thirty-three thousand three hundred thirty-three dollars to the Construction Subfund of the Transportation Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the economic damage proceeds and the bonds issued by the State Bond Commission shall be issued, after paying the costs associated with the issuance of the bonds, solely and exclusively for certain projects in specified amounts; and

WHEREAS, twenty-five million dollars per year, for a total of one hundred fifty million dollars, was dedicated to Phase Two of the Louisiana 1 Improvement Project between Golden Meadow, Louisiana, and Leesville, Louisiana, for Fiscal Years 2021-2026; and

WHEREAS, one hundred twenty-five million dollars was dedicated to the Louisiana 415 Bridge at the Intracoastal Canal; and

WHEREAS, one hundred fifty million dollars was dedicated to Interstate 49 South; and

WHEREAS, fifty million dollars was dedicated to Louisiana Highway 3241 from Interstate 12 to Bush, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, one hundred million dollars was dedicated to the construction of two additional lanes for the Jimmie Davis Bridge (Louisiana Highway 511) and repair of the existing bridge; and

WHEREAS, twenty million dollars was dedicated to the acquisition of a new Cameron Parish ferry; and

WHEREAS, forty million dollars was dedicated to the On-System Bridge Program for the replacement and rehabilitation program for highway bridges on any federal-aid system over waterways, other topographical barriers, other highways, and railroads and for replacement and rehabilitation of highway bridges on state highways that are ineligible for federal highway funding assistance; and

WHEREAS, nineteen million dollars was dedicated to Phase I and II of the Sugarhouse Road Extension/Eddie Williams Boulevard to Louisiana Highway 43 Highway 1 project; and

WHEREAS, twenty million dollars was dedicated to the acquisition of two cranes for the Port of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, fifteen million dollars was dedicated to the Hooper Road Widening from Louisiana Highway 3034 to Louisiana Highway 37; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the economic damage proceeds were allocated to benefit a project in every area of the state, except Northeast Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Development should dedicate the forty million dollars of economic damage proceeds allocated to the On-System Bridge Program for replacement and rehabilitation program for highway bridges on any federal-aid system over waterways, other topographical barriers, other highways, and railroads and for replacement and rehabilitation of highway bridges on state highways that are ineligible for federal highway funding assistance to Northeast Louisiana to ensure the infrastructure needs of that area of the state are addressed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to dedicate the forty million dollars of the economic damage proceeds from the Deepwater Horizon litigation allocated to the On-System Bridge Program for replacement and rehabilitation program for highway bridges on any federal-aid system over waterways, other topographical barriers, other highways, and railroads and for replacement and rehabilitation of highway bridges on state highways that are ineligible for federal highway funding assistance to Northeast Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES