

2017 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY SENATORS MORRISH AND ALARIO

COASTAL PROTECT/RES AUTH. Approves the comprehensive master plan for integrated coastal protection.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To approve the comprehensive master plan for integrated coastal protection projects, as  
3 adopted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board.

4 WHEREAS, R.S. 49:214.5.1 et seq., provides for the creation, duties, and  
5 responsibilities of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board (board); and

6 WHEREAS, under R.S. 49:214.5.2, the board represents the state's position in policy  
7 relative to the protection, conservation, enhancement, and restoration of the coastal area of  
8 the state through oversight of integrated coastal protection projects; and

9 WHEREAS, in accordance with the responsibility of the board to represent the state's  
10 position in policy relative to integrated coastal protection, membership on the board includes  
11 the following: the governor's executive assistant for coastal activities; the secretaries of the  
12 Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Department  
13 of Environmental Quality, the Department of Transportation and Development, the  
14 Department of Economic Development, and the commissioners of the division of  
15 administration, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Department of  
16 Insurance; seven members who are selected in consultation with the Police Jury Association  
17 of Louisiana and the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana; the chair of the Governor's  
18 Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration and Conservation; the director of

1 the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness; and two  
2 ex-officio members designated by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House  
3 of Representatives; and

4 WHEREAS, the powers and duties of the board require working in conjunction with  
5 state agencies, political subdivisions, including flood protection authorities, levee districts  
6 and federal agencies, as well as representatives from the Louisiana Legislature, to develop  
7 a state comprehensive master plan for integrated coastal protection (coastal master plan) to  
8 address integrated coastal protection efforts from both short-term and long-range  
9 perspectives, and to incorporate the structural, management, and institutional components  
10 of both efforts; and

11 WHEREAS, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) has engaged  
12 a state steering committee to assist with the development of the coastal master plan as  
13 directed by Governor John Bel Edwards' Executive Order No. JBE 2016-09, which requires  
14 all state agencies, departments, and offices to administer their regulatory practices and  
15 programs in a manner consistent with the coastal master plan; and

16 WHEREAS, in development of the coastal master plan, CPRA has also engaged a  
17 diverse group of key stakeholders to serve as the framework development team (FDT) which  
18 began meeting in July 2014, with meetings occurring every three to four months thereafter,  
19 to establish a clear vision for the 2017 coastal master plan consisting of members from the  
20 following twenty-eight groups: Barataria -Terrebonne National Estuary Program, building  
21 industry, chemical industry, oil and gas, ports and navigation, community representative,  
22 land conservation, recreational fishing, commercial fisheries, Governor's Office of  
23 Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation,  
24 landowner representatives, local flood control, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
25 - office of coastal management, Louisiana Department of Economic Development - small  
26 business development, Louisiana Sea Grant, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources  
27 - marine fisheries office, Mississippi River Delta Coalition, national advocacy group,  
28 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - national marine fisheries services,  
29 parish representatives from the eastern, central, and western areas of coastal Louisiana,  
30 university/academic representative, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of

1 Agriculture - natural resources conservation service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, in addition to the FDT, CPRA also engaged a series of advisory groups  
4 to establish the 2017 coastal master plan, including a science and engineering board  
5 including scientists and engineers with national or international experience who cover a  
6 range of disciplines relevant to the 2017 coastal master plan to provide independent technical  
7 review of plan elements, technical advisory committees consisting of nationally known  
8 academics and practitioners who offer insight into specific elements of the coastal master  
9 plan process, and focus groups to integrate the perspectives of community, fisheries,  
10 landowners, energy, industry, and navigation; and

11 WHEREAS, the coastal master plan shall include a list of projects and programs  
12 required for the protection, conservation, enhancement and restoration of the coastal area,  
13 the action required of each agency to implement said project or program, and a schedule and  
14 estimated cost for the implementation of each project or program included in the plan; and

15 WHEREAS, R.S. 49:214.5.3 requires that, as part of the development of the coastal  
16 master plan, the board shall conduct not less than three public hearings in separate locations  
17 in the western, central, and eastern areas of the coastal area for the purpose of receiving  
18 comments and recommendations from the public and elected officials; and

19 WHEREAS, R.S. 49:214.5.3 also requires that at least two weeks prior to each public  
20 hearing, the board must contact the parish governing authorities, regional flood protection  
21 authorities, levee districts, and the state legislators of the parishes in the coastal areas for the  
22 purpose of soliciting their comments and recommendations and notifying them of the public  
23 hearing to be held in their area; and

24 WHEREAS, R.S. 49:214.5.3 requires the board to receive written comments and  
25 recommendations until thirty days prior to the submission of the coastal master plan to the  
26 legislative committees; and

27 WHEREAS, the board has gone well above and beyond the public outreach required  
28 by law and in addition to meeting its obligations as set forth in R.S. 49:214.5.3, the board  
29 has: (1) hosted an additional public hearing for a total of four public hearings during January  
30 2017, in Houma, Lake Charles, Mandeville, and New Orleans, with a total of eight hundred

1 attendees, (2) participated in four public hearings sponsored by a coastal Louisiana  
2 nongovernmental organization in Abbeville, Lafitte, Cameron, and Lacombe in February and  
3 March 2017; (3) opened the plan for public comment for eighty-two days of public comment  
4 ending on March 26, 2017, (4) hosted sixteen community conversations with nine hundred  
5 attendees across the coast, (5) given eighty-five general presentation briefings, (6) conducted  
6 fifty-five meetings with advisory groups, (7) received three thousand five hundred views on  
7 the master plan data viewer, and (8) has had eleven thousand Facebook views; and

8 WHEREAS, as required under the provisions of R.S. 49:214.5.3, the coastal master  
9 plan adopted by the board must be submitted to the House Committee on Natural Resources  
10 and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the House Committee  
11 on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and the Senate Committee on  
12 Transportation, Highways and Public Works; and

13 WHEREAS, the legislature may approve or disapprove of the coastal master plan by  
14 resolution adopted by a majority vote of the members of each house of the legislature; and

15 WHEREAS, the board shall provide for implementation of the coastal master plan  
16 if the legislature approves such plan or if the legislature fails to take action on such plan  
17 within sixty days after the plan is submitted.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
19 approve the comprehensive master plan for integrated coastal protection, as adopted by the  
20 Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
22 chairman of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alan Miller.

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SCR 1 Original

DIGEST  
2017 Regular Session

Morrish

Approves the comprehensive master plan for integrated coastal protection.