

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 93

BY REPRESENTATIVES PETERSON AND LEGER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create the Louisiana Climate Change Policy Commission; to provide for its membership; to provide for its powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities; and to provide for related matters.

WHEREAS, a growing number of states are taking significant actions on the issue of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the continued review of global climate changes offers significant benefit to Louisiana as well as aid in addressing the issue of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life for Louisiana citizens is extremely vulnerable to the projected effects of climate changes which involve a rise in sea-level, the development and dissemination of vector-borne diseases, as well as droughts and heat waves associated with changes in climatic conditions; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to discuss the economics of all proposed green house gas control strategies to determine the costs and benefits of these actions; and

WHEREAS, there exists a myriad of reports and studies which set forth in detail the economic impacts, as well as scientific academic discussions and data, on the subject of climate change and impacts to individual states and the United States and the world as a whole, which should be included in any discussion of climate change policy in Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Louisiana Climate Change Policy Commission (hereafter Commission). The Commission shall be composed of twenty members who, unless otherwise specified, shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the governor. The membership of the Commission shall be selected as follows:

(1) The secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality or the secretary's designee.

(2) The secretary of the Department of Natural Resources or the secretary's designee.

(3) The secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development or the secretary's designee.

(4) The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or the secretary's designee.

(5) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development or the secretary's designee.

(6) The commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry or the commissioner's designee.

(7) The chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources or the chair's designee.

(8) The chair of the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality or the chair's designee.

(9) The chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment or the chair's designee.

(10) The president of the Senate or the president's designee.

(11) The speaker of the House of Representatives or the speaker's designee.

(12) The chairman of the LSU Center for Energy Studies or the chairman's designee.

(13) The executive assistant of the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities or the executive assistant's designee.

(14) The executive director of the Louisiana Recovery Authority or the executive director's designee.

(15) The secretary of the Public Service Commission or the secretary's designee.

(16) Five members appointed by the governor from a list of professors nominated by public postsecondary education institutions that offer academic degrees at the baccalaureate level or higher and regionally accredited independent colleges or universities that are a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Each such institution, college, or university may nominate three professors who teach in at least one of the following subjects: agriculture, coastal studies, economics, energy studies, environmental studies, landscape planning, and natural resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretaries or their designee, of the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Natural Resources shall serve

as co-chairs of the commission. All other officers, if any, shall be elected by the membership of the commission. The commission shall meet monthly and at the call of the chairs. Commission members shall not receive additional compensation. Facilities for the meetings of the commission shall be arranged by the Department of Environmental Quality. Support staff for the commission shall be provided by the departments or agencies of the executive branch as requested by the chairs of the commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the duties of the commission shall include but are not limited to the following:

(1) Evaluating the policy considerations, goals, or objectives relevant to the development, maintenance, or implementation of a comprehensive policy for the state of Louisiana for climate change, particularly addressing the areas of carbon sequestration; greenhouse gas reduction; diversification and improvement of energy systems; planning for design, land use, and economic development relative to climate change mitigation and environmental improvement; coordination of state and federal policies on climate change.

(2) Provide a public forum for the review and assessment of public and private programs and projects that are aiding efforts in responding to climate change that include but are not limited to America's Energy Coast initiative, America's Wetland Initiative, Louisiana Greenhouse Gas Inventory, and state, federal, and private programs for energy efficiency, building design, and carbon sequestration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall submit a report of their work and their findings, along with any recommendations for legislation, to the governor, the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality, and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources prior to the 2010 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE