

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 172

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUTTER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to conduct a bridge rating study on all state bridges.

WHEREAS, the Interstate 35 West Bridge in Minnesota suffered a tragedy of historic proportions when the Interstate 35 West Bridge collapsed; and

WHEREAS, the Interstate 35 West Bridge catastrophically failed during the evening rush hour on August 1, 2007, collapsing into the river and river bank beneath, causing thirteen deaths and one hundred forty-five injuries; and

WHEREAS, the Cable News Network reported on November 15, 2008, that the National Transportation Safety Board's report revealed that the bridge collapsed because of an apparent design flaw and the increased weight on the bridge from construction equipment and rush hour traffic; and

WHEREAS, bridge inspections conducted by the department have resulted in the Department of Transportation and Development utilizing surplus funds appropriated by the legislature for some bridge repairs in the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, to ensure the safety of Louisiana citizens, major bridges on the major thoroughfares should be regularly inspected; and

WHEREAS, safety inspection on major bridges on major thoroughfares should include but should not be limited to: review design of bridges; effectiveness of the maintenance of the bridge; structural integrity of bridges; recalculation of load capacities on bridges; and measurements of bridge sustainability relative to weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, it is further urged and requested, that in addition to those safety inspections, the Department of Transportation and Development should evaluate the ability of bridges to be used by citizens in specific areas of the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to conduct a bridge rating study on all state bridges.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE