

1 WHEREAS, in 1978, Louisiana Sea Grant, located at Louisiana State University, was
2 designated as the thirteenth sea grant college and in its most recent program review
3 conducted by the National Sea Grant Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
4 Administration was rated as ". . . exceeds expectations by a substantial margin in some
5 areas/aspects."; and

6 WHEREAS, Louisiana Sea Grant, similar to the agricultural extension or "county
7 agent" program of the United States Department of Agriculture, provides many educational
8 and support services to local coastal communities and businesses, including our state's
9 commercial fishermen; and

10 WHEREAS, in 2015, Louisiana Sea Grant activities in the state resulted in \$17.7
11 million in economic benefits, the establishment of nearly one hundred twenty businesses,
12 and the educational experiences of nearly twenty-nine thousand students in our elementary
13 and secondary schools; and

14 WHEREAS, Louisiana Sea Grant was also able to assist twenty-four communities
15 in the development and implementation of sustainable economic and environmental practices
16 to the benefit of those communities and their citizens; and

17 WHEREAS, Louisiana Sea Grant has been a part of the first response to many
18 coastal crises including hurricanes, floods, and even the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster, and
19 the Louisiana Sea Grant has been an essential part of the short-term and long-term recovery
20 from those disasters by local coastal communities; and

21 WHEREAS, Louisiana Sea Grant annually reaches more than twenty-five thousand
22 of our state's kindergarten through twelfth grade schoolchildren through professional
23 development for teachers and development of student coastal stewardship activities and has
24 supported more than twelve hundred graduate and undergraduate students in their quest for
25 applicable degrees and research opportunities, furthering the mission of Louisiana Sea Grant
26 to impart ". . . useful information to persons currently employed or interested in the various
27 fields related to the development of marine resources, the scientific community, and the
28 general public"; and

29 WHEREAS, one of the programs slated to be cut by \$30 million in the Fiscal Year
30 2018 President's budget request is the National Sea Grant College Program with an

1 additional Fiscal Year 2019 budget proposal that would eliminate funding for the Sea Grant
2 program entirely; and

3 WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2018 proposed cut would eliminate the remaining
4 budget for the National Sea Grant College Program this year and, if adopted, would
5 terminate the National Sea Grant Office on the day such a budget cut became effective; and

6 WHEREAS, Louisiana Sea Grant provides vital services to the state of Louisiana and
7 its citizens through the scientific research, education, training, and extension projects and
8 programs that are aimed at preservation and practical development of coastal resources and
9 the loss of these services would deal a devastating blow to communities already stressed due
10 to the magnitude of coastal loss and repeated natural disasters, such as hurricanes and
11 flooding.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
13 memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to continue to
14 provide appropriate and sufficient funding for the National Sea Grant College Program,
15 including that for Louisiana Sea Grant.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
17 presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the
18 United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Zeringue

Memorializes congress and the La. Congressional delegation to take such actions as are necessary to continue to provide appropriate and sufficient funding for the National Sea Grant College Program.