## 2017 Regular Session

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 95

#### BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

# FEDERAL PROGRAMS: Requests certain state agencies to study the feasibility of using federal Community Development Block Grant funds and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds for completion of the Comite River Diversion Project

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the governor of Louisiana and the office of community development
3	within the division of administration to evaluate the feasibility of using Community
4	Development Block Grant funds received from the United States Department of
5	Housing and Urban Development and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security
6	and Emergency Preparedness to evaluate the feasibility of using any future Hazard
7	Mitigation Grant Program funding from the Federal Emergency Management
8	Agency to complete the Comite River Diversion Canal Project, and to report their
9	findings to the legislative committees on homeland security.
10	WHEREAS, the flooding of August 2016 that was declared a state and national
11	disaster caused devastating destruction of property, economic losses to the state and its
12	citizens, a public health crisis, and loss of life; and
13	WHEREAS, the office of community development's action plan was approved by the
14	United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and as such has been
15	appropriated Community Development Block Grant funding by the United States Congress;
16	and
17	WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana anticipates receiving Hazard Mitigation Grant
18	Program funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to be administered by
19	the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness; and

1 WHEREAS, water levels in the Comite and Amite Rivers reached record levels 2 during the flooding of August 2016 from the extraordinary rainfall; and

- 3 WHEREAS, had the United States Army Corps of Engineers completed the Comite 4 River Diversion Canal Project, the flooding impacts on the property within the Comite and 5 Amite Rivers' flood plain could have been mitigated or reduced entirely; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the Comite River Diversion Canal project was authorized in 1986 and 7 expected to be completed in 2012 and currently over \$100 million has been invested in the 8 project and the need for funding to complete the project has never been more necessary in 9 order to protect the region from the possibility of future catastrophic flood events.
- 10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 11 urge and request the office of community development within the division of administration 12 to evaluate the feasibility of using Community Development Block Grant funds received 13 from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Governor's 14 Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to evaluate the feasibility of 15 using any future Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding from the Federal Emergency 16 Management Agency to complete the Comite River Diversion Canal Project.
- 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the evaluation requested in this 18 Resolution, the office of community development can monitor and include in its findings 19 how many homeowners utilized Community Development Block Grant funding, an estimate 20 when the homeowner rehabilitation and reconstruction program will be completed, and the 21 balance of funds remaining in the program at its conclusion.
- 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of community development and the 23 Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness shall each submit a 24 written report of its findings resulting from each of the evaluations requested in this 25 Resolution to the House Special Committee on Homeland Security and the Senate Select 26 Committee on Homeland Security no later than August 1, 2018.

### 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)]

HCR 95 Original

2017 Regular Session

Hodges

Urges and requests the office of community development in the division of administration and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to evaluate the feasibility of using Community Development Block Grant and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds from the federal government to complete the Comite River Diversion Canal Project.