SLS 17RS-2797 **ORIGINAL**

2017 Regular Session

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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 172

BY SENATORS WHITE AND HEWITT

TRANSPORTATION/DEV DEPT. Requests the Department of Transportation and Development, in consultation with other state agencies, to study construction or maintenance impacts, including channelization, dredging, and clearing and snagging activities, upon river basins and water transmission, and provide recommendations to establish, implement, and enforce floodplain management plans for each watershed in Louisiana.

A RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development, in consultation
3	with other state agencies, to study construction or maintenance impacts, including
4	channelization, dredging, and clearing and snagging activities, upon river basins and
5	water transmission, and provide recommendations to establish, implement, and
6	enforce floodplain management plans for each watershed in Louisiana.
7	WHEREAS, during the last eighteen months the state of Louisiana and its citizens
8	have experienced numerous major flooding events; and
9	WHEREAS, on February 5, 2016, President Obama declared a state of emergency
10	in seven Louisiana parishes affected by damage from thunderstorms and flooding from the
11	Mississippi River; and
12	WHEREAS, that declaration provided federal funds to supplement the state and local
13	response efforts in the areas affected by flooding between December 28, 2015, through
14	February 1, 2016; and
15	WHEREAS, on March 9, 2016, Governor Edwards declared a state of emergency in
16	response to a strong upper level storm that brought heavy rainfall, flash flooding, river
17	flooding, and damaging winds; and
18	WHEREAS, on March 13, 2016, President Obama declared a major disaster existed

1	in Louisiana and ordered federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the
2	area affected by severe storms and flooding that began on March 8, 2016; and
3	WHEREAS, thirty-seven parishes were listed under the federal major disaster
4	declaration; and
5	WHEREAS, in the March flooding event, more than twenty-one thousand
6	households had verified losses according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency
7	(FEMA) and another six thousand one hundred forty-three structures flooded, including
8	businesses, churches, and schools; and
9	WHEREAS, in August 2016, Louisiana experienced the worst natural disaster in the
10	country since Hurricane Sandy as a slow moving system produced up to 20 inches of rainfall
11	in some areas of the state, providing more than seven trillion gallons of new surface water;
12	and
13	WHEREAS, rivers rose rapidly and inundated homes, roads, and businesses within
14	hours, and more than a half dozen river gauges set new record highs, in some cases by as
15	much as six feet; and
16	WHEREAS, in the August flooding event, more than ninety-one thousand
17	households had verified losses according to FEMA; and
18	WHEREAS, the March and August flooding events combined to impact one hundred
19	ninety-three thousand families across fifty-six of the sixty-four parishes; and
20	WHEREAS, when the state and political subdivisions are contemplating a
21	construction or maintenance project that may impact a waterway, the entities must consider
22	the flooding impacts the project may have on the waterway, other local political
23	subdivisions, or other waterways, both upstream and downstream; and
24	WHEREAS, existing practices across varying levels of government do not provide
25	for comprehensive floodplain management that is necessary to properly address drainage
26	issues as land is developed; and
27	WHEREAS, one of the missions of the Department of Transportation and
28	Development is to manage the water resources of the state and to implement projects related
29	to statewide flood control.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana

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does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development, in consultation with other state agencies, to study construction or maintenance impacts, including channelization, dredging, and clearing and snagging activities, upon river basins and water transmission, and provide recommendations to establish, implement, and enforce floodplain management plans for each watershed in Louisiana.

SR 172 Original

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) shall seek input and advice from the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the office of community development within the division of administration, the Water Institute of the Gulf, local political subdivisions, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DOTD, in collaboration with the referenced entities, shall report their initial findings and recommendations to the senate and house committees on natural resources and the senate and house committees on transportation, highways and public works not later than June 1, 2018, and the report shall contain, at a minimum, recommendations for any statutory or regulatory changes and any fiscal considerations. The final report shall be submitted to the committees not later than February 1, 2019.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by J. W. Wiley.

DIGEST 2017 Regular Session

White

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