

1 decreasing soil stability and shearing outcomes that are contrary to other efforts engaged in
2 by the state of Louisiana in its coastal protection and restoration efforts; and

3 WHEREAS, healthy freshwater wetlands benefit from dry periods and seasonal high
4 and low water flow but continuous discharge of municipal wastewater into freshwater marsh
5 or forested wetlands can cause ponding, reduced plant growth rates, reduced regeneration
6 rates, and undesirable shifts in species composition resulting in loss of wetland values; and

7 WHEREAS, several organizations active in Louisiana's conservation and coastal
8 protection efforts have expressed concerns about the long-term overall impacts of wetland
9 assimilation projects and the continued approval of such projects without an independent
10 review of the true benefits of such projects and the cumulative impacts of a multitude of such
11 projects, and those organizations have requested an in-depth review of overall long-term
12 benefits of these projects and an independent analysis of current projects that have
13 observable wetland habitat deterioration that may not meet the program's goals to benefit
14 wetlands.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
16 urge and request the Department of Environmental Quality to study the overall impacts of
17 wetland assimilation projects prior to approval of additional such projects and to provide a
18 comprehensive program evaluation report in consultation with the Department of Natural
19 Resources, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and the Department of Health to the
20 House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on
21 Natural Resources by February 1, 2020.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the
23 secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality.

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

Urges and requests the Dept. of Environmental Quality to study the overall impacts of wetland assimilation projects prior to approval of additional such projects and to submit a report by Feb. 1, 2020.