SLS 21RS-159 **ORIGINAL**

2021 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY SENATORS PEACOCK, MILLIGAN, ROBERT MILLS AND TARVER AND REPRESENTATIVES BAGLEY, CREWS, MCMAHEN, PHELPS AND **PRESSLY**

LOCAL AGENCIES. Requests inclusion of legislative participation in Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments MPO.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments to include legislative
3	participation in exercising the council's function as a metropolitan planning
4	organization setting transportation policy-making.
5	WHEREAS, 49 U.S.C. 5301 et seq., originating with the Federal-Aid Highway Act
6	of 1970 through the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act or "FAST Act" signed into
7	law in 2015, provides for the designation of metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) for
8	urban areas with a population of more than fifty thousand individuals; and
9	WHEREAS, MPOs carry out transportation planning processes to create specified
10	primary products, such as a metropolitan transportation plan or a transport improvement
11	program, to qualify for federal highway and transit funding; and
12	WHEREAS, Louisiana has nine MPOs designated through agreements between the
13	governor and local governments that represent at least seventy-five percent of the population
14	of the affected population pursuant to federal law; and
15	WHEREAS, the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments is the designated
16	MPO for the parishes of Caddo, Bossier, Desoto, and Webster; and
17	WHEREAS, the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments serves as a
18	coordination and consensus-building role in planning and programing funds for operations,

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rather than implementing transportation projects directly as an owner or operator of a transportation system; and

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WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Development currently serves as a member government organization involved in planning for the common needs, cooperating for the mutual benefit, and coordinating for the sound regional development through prioritizing federal funds with the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments; and

WHEREAS, 49 U.S.C. 5303(d)(2) authorizes MPOs to include, along with local elected officials and officials of public agencies that administer or operate major modes of transportation, and to appropriate state officials; and

WHEREAS, to enhance the regional transportation planning process, along with the priorities and capabilities of the state's transportation department, there is utility of incorporating the priorities and resources of the state's legislature through inclusion of local legislators in the planning process.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments to include participation as voting members by members of the House of Representatives and the Senate representing the urban area, or designees appointed by such members of the legislature, in exercising the council's function as a metropolitan planning organization setting transportation policymaking.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the board of directors of the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Tyler S. McCloud.

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Peacock

Requests the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments to include participation as voting members by members of the House of Representatives and the Senate representing the urban area, or designees appointed by such members of the legislature, in exercising the council's function as a metropolitan planning organization setting transportation policy-making.