

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 256

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

APPROPRIATIONS: To urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to report on potential liabilities to the state general fund if the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project is not timely completed

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to report to the House  
3 Committee on Appropriations no later than May 31, 2024, describing potential  
4 liabilities to the state general fund if the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project  
5 is not timely completed and outlining the steps the state can take to mitigate any  
6 impact to the state general fund.

7 WHEREAS, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is the state agency  
8 responsible for the comprehensive master coastal protection plan; and

9 WHEREAS, the goal of the comprehensive master coastal protection plan is coastal  
10 restoration, coastal zone management, storm damage reduction, hurricane protection, flood  
11 control, and the protection, conservation, restoration, and enhancements of coastal wetlands;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project is an important part of  
14 the comprehensive master coastal protection plan; and

15 WHEREAS, the state began the permitting process for the Mid-Barataria Sediment  
16 Diversion project in 2016 and began the construction phase in August of 2023; and

17 WHEREAS, the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project has a \$2.9 billion dollar  
18 budget, comprised of \$2.26 billion dollars from Natural Resource Damage Assessment funds  
19 and \$600 million dollars from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; and

1           WHEREAS, the state has set aside \$378 million dollars for a mitigation and  
2 stewardship program; and

3           WHEREAS, it has been reported that the state has spent \$422 million dollars to date  
4 on pre-construction, construction, and mitigation; and

5           WHEREAS, it has been reported that the Twenty-Fifth Judicial District Court has  
6 issued a stop work order on the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project; and

7           WHEREAS, it has been reported that the state could owe between \$250 million and  
8 \$500 million dollars in damages to subcontractors if the state cancels contracts to build the  
9 Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project; and

10          WHEREAS, the repayment of funds may result in significant expenditures from the  
11 state fisc.

12          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
13 urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to report to the House  
14 Committee on Appropriations no later than May 31, 2024, describing potential liabilities to  
15 the state general fund if the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project is not timely  
16 completed and outlining the steps the state can take to mitigate any impact to the state  
17 general fund.

18          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
19 Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

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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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HR 256 Original

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Urges and requests the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to report to the House Committee on Appropriations no later than May 31, 2024, describing potential liabilities to the state general fund if the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project is not timely completed and outlining the steps the state can take to mitigate any impact to the state general fund.