2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 240

BY REPRESENTATIVE OWEN

ENERGY: Creates a special task force for the House of Representatives to work with the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental Quality, and the Louisiana Board of Regents to assess the capacity of government, industry, and academia to model the behavior of geologically sequestered carbon dioxide and to develop a method, if necessary

A RESOLUTION

To create a special task force to evaluate the existing capacity of government and industry to model the behavior of geologically sequestered carbon dioxide and to develop a method to model the behavior of geologically sequestered carbon dioxide if none exists.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana enacted legislation permitting carbon capture and sequestration within the state; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the United States Environmental Protection Agency signed a final rule giving the state of Louisiana primary enforcement authority, or primacy, over Class VI underground injection wells, which are used by the carbon capture and sequestration industry to permanently sequester captured carbon in underground geological formations within the state; and

WHEREAS, Class VI permits are now being considered by the Department of Energy and Natural Resources and carbon capture and sequestration injection wells are beginning to be built within the state; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana requires a method that will accurately model the behavior of carbon dioxide that is deposited into the earth's surface after being captured and transported in pipelines; and

WHEREAS, the method should be able to accurately model and predict the potential behavior and movement of the captured carbon dioxide in all types of soil, rock, sediment, and other subsurface substrate layers where Class VI wells may be permitted; and

WHEREAS, the task force should confer to determine whether a method exists that can predict with a ninety-five percent degree of certainty the behavior of buried carbon dioxide in any type of soil or below ground paradigm in the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, if a method exists inside of federal or state government, the task force should assess the reliability and effectiveness of the method and determine if the state of Louisiana may access or use the method to predict carbon dioxide behavior over periods of time; and

WHEREAS, if the method exists, the task force should determine if the state of Louisiana should use the method in assessing risk and reward for allowing carbon dioxide sequestration locations in the state, such as whether the method is reliable and whether it was appropriately and scientifically tested; and

WHEREAS, if a method exists within industry in the private sector, the task force should assess the reliability and efficacy of the method and determine if the state of Louisiana should utilize it when assessing the risk or reward of allowing carbon sequestration in specific locations within the state; and

WHEREAS, if the method exists the task force should determine the cost of purchasing the method and training state personnel to use the method; and

WHEREAS, if no such method exists, the task force shall establish a timeline wherein state scientific and higher education researchers can develop, beta test, and field test such a method.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create a task force to assess the existing capacity of government, industry, or academia to model the behavior of carbon dioxide buried in a permanent storage location beneath the earth's surface to be comprised of:

(1) The chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment or his designee.

(2) The secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources or his designee.

(3) The secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality or his designee.

(4) The chair of the Louisiana Board of Regents or his designee.

(5) Any other members as deemed necessary to carry out the functions of the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall work to identify whether a method exists or can be created to accurately model the dispersion of carbon dioxide injected into the subsurface strata and determine the feasibility of acquiring and utilizing such a method to assess the risks and rewards of allowing carbon sequestration in specific locations within the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if no existing model exists to predict with a ninety-five percent degree of certainty the potential behavior and movement of the captured carbon dioxide in all types of soil, rock, sediment, and other subsurface substrate layers where Class VI wells may be permitted, the task force shall:

(1) Establish a timeline wherein state scientific and higher education researchers can develop, beta test, and field test such a method to model the behavior of carbon dioxide.

(2) Determine the cost of purchasing the method and training state personnel to use the method.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by July 1, 2025, the task force shall report its initial findings regarding whether a method currently exists that can accurately and effectively model and predict with a ninety-five percent degree of certainty the behavior of buried carbon dioxide to the speaker of the House of Representatives or whether a method must be developed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the initial findings show that a method does not currently exist the task force shall also provide its timeline to develop and test a method to accurately and effectively model and predict the potential behavior and movement of the captured carbon dioxide in all types of soil, rock, sediment, and other subsurface substrate layers where Class VI wells may be permitted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, and the chair of the Louisiana Board of Regents.

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)]

HR 240 Original 2025 Regular Session Owen

Creates a special task force to evaluate the existing capacity of government and industry to model the behavior of geologically sequestered carbon dioxide and to develop a method to model the behavior of geologically sequestered carbon dioxide if none exists. Requires the task force to report its initial findings to the legislature by July 1, 2025.