

2025 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 64

BY SENATOR HODGES

FLOODS/FLOODING. To continue the Comite River Diversion Canal/Amite River Basin Task Force.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To continue the Comite River Diversion Canal/Amite River Basin Task Force.

WHEREAS, the Amite River and its tributary, the Comite River, are major causes of catastrophic flooding in the Greater Baton Rouge Metropolitan Area and all impacted downstream communities of East Baton Rouge Parish, Livingston Parish, and Ascension Parish; and

WHEREAS, during the floods of 1983 and 2016, substantial portions of the parishes of East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and Ascension were inundated with flood waters; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project is to divert flood waters from the upper Comite River to the Mississippi River; at its maximum capacity, the project will divert twenty thousand cubic feet per second by gravity flow; and

WHEREAS, once completed, the Comite River Diversion Canal could divert fifty percent of the flood waters from the upper Comite River, which would substantially reduce flood stages along the lower Comite and Amite rivers; and

WHEREAS, following the displacement of thousands of residents from the New Orleans area after Hurricane Katrina, East Baton Rouge Parish experienced an explosive population growth and is now the most populous parish in the state, making the Comite River Diversion Canal Project all the more important and urgently significant; and

1 WHEREAS, the work of the task force originally began pursuant to House
2 Concurrent Resolution No. 51 of the 2014 Regular Session and continued pursuant to House
3 Concurrent Resolution No. 66 of the 2015 Regular Session, House Concurrent Resolution
4 No. 39 of the 2016 Regular Session, House Concurrent Resolution No. 90 of the 2019
5 Regular Session, House Concurrent Resolution No. 62 of the 2020 Regular Session, House
6 Concurrent Resolution No. 17 of the 2022 Regular Session and Senate Concurrent
7 Resolution No. 25 of the 2024 Regular Session.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
9 continue the Comite River Diversion Canal/Amite River Basin Task Force and authorizes
10 the task force to meet and make recommendations to the legislature and the appropriate state
11 and federal agencies on actions necessary to complete the construction and maintenance of
12 the Comite River Diversion Canal Project, including strategies to comply with mitigation
13 requirements and right-of-way acquisitions, mitigation of flooding caused by the Comite
14 River, other required mitigation projects and flood plain planning throughout the Amite
15 River Basin, and the actions of the watershed initiative pertaining to the Amite River Basin
16 to maintain transparency to the citizens of the Amite River Basin.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be comprised of the
18 following members:

19 (1) The state senator for Senate District 13, who shall serve as the chairman of the
20 task force;

21 (2) Two members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate whose
22 districts are directly impacted by the Amite River Basin;

23 (3) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the
24 House of Representatives whose district corresponds with Senate District 13, who shall serve
25 as the vice chairman of the task force;

26 (4) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the
27 House of Representatives, whose districts are directly impacted by the Amite River Basin;

28 (5) One member appointed by the members of the Louisiana congressional
29 delegation representing the district in which the Amite River Basin is located;

30 (6) The secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, or his

1 designee;

2 (7) The executive director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, or his
3 designee;

4 (8) One member appointed by the chairman of the task force who is a former member
5 of the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District board of commissioners;

6 (9) One member appointed by the director of the Louisiana Geological Survey;

7 (10) The director of the Department of Public Works of East Baton Rouge Parish,
8 or his designee;

9 (11) One member appointed by the president of the Louisiana Home Builders
10 Association, who is a home builder within the area impacted by the Amite River Basin
11 District;

12 (12) One member appointed by Louisiana REALTORS who is a realtor in the area
13 impacted by the Amite River Basin District;

14 (13) One member appointed by the director of the Federal Emergency Management
15 Agency (FEMA) Louisiana Recovery Office;

16 (14) One member appointed by the Louisiana Landowners Association, Incorporated,
17 who is a landowner in the area impacted by the Amite River Basin District;

18 (15) One member appointed by the president of the board of commissioners for the
19 Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District;

20 (16) The executive director of the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors,
21 or his designee.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit the
23 names of designees appointed to the task force to the chairperson no later than July 30, 2025.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force shall convene its first meeting no later
25 than September 30, 2025, at the call of the chairperson.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a
27 quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the
28 affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve
30 without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be

1 individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall receive staff support from
3 the Senate and may receive additional assistance from one or more of the entities from which
4 the task force membership is designated or appointed.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit recommendations to
6 the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, and the House
7 Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works on a continuing basis as
8 necessary and any reports submitted shall be reported to the committees and the David R.
9 Poynter Legislative Research Library, as required by R.S. 24:771.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate upon the
11 completion of the project or December 31, 2027, whichever occurs first.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
13 president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the Louisiana
14 congressional delegation representing the district in which the Amite River Basin is located,
15 the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, the executive director
16 of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the president of the Amite River Basin
17 Drainage and Water Conservation District, the director of the Louisiana Geological Survey,
18 the director of the Department of Public Works of East Baton Rouge Parish, the president
19 of the Louisiana Home Builders Association, the president of Louisiana REALTORS, the
20 director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Louisiana Recovery
21 Office, the president of the Louisiana Landowners Association, Inc., and the executive
22 director of the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services.
The keyword, summary, 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)]

SCR 64 Original DIGEST
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Hodges

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