

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 274

BY REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Urges and requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to restore the authority for the general health of Cocodrie Lake to the Cocodrie Lake Game and Fish Commission

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to return the authority to
3 oversee water levels and the general health of Cocodrie Lake to the Cocodrie Lake
4 Game and Fish Commission.

5 WHEREAS, the Cocodrie Lake Game and Fish Commission's powers and authorities
6 were transferred to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries by Act 858 of the 1981 Regular
7 Session of the Louisiana Legislature; and

8 WHEREAS, prior to the lock and dam structure's completion in Clearwater, the only
9 navigable waters were strictly held within the banks of the narrow bayou; and

10 WHEREAS, after the dam was put in place water levels rose greatly increasing the
11 surface water acreage; and

12 WHEREAS, the properties within the watershed of the lake were the livelihood of
13 the residents, utilized by these residents for farming, agriculture, timber, hunting, and other
14 uses impacting the income and livelihood of their families; and

15 WHEREAS, the residents turned to the fishing industry, waterfowl hunting, and the
16 building of private boat launches to create revenue; and

17 WHEREAS, after the dam structure became operational the residents decided a
18 governing authority was needed to control the lake's water level as when the level was too
19 high it prohibited use of their properties and boat launches and when the water level was too
20 low it negatively impacted the fishing industry; and

1 WHEREAS, the Cocodrie Lake Game and Fish Commission, with appointees from
2 the parishes in which the watershed area is contained, was established to consider the needs
3 of the residents and still exists and holds public meetings; and

4 WHEREAS, the Cocodrie Lake Game and Fish Commission contends that it is no
5 longer able to have input with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and other agencies
6 and industries that do have a say in the operations of Cocodrie Lake and the entire watershed
7 area; and

8 WHEREAS, the Cocodrie Lake Game and Fish Commission will maintain a good
9 working relationship with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of
10 Transportation and Developments, as well as Cleco and other stakeholders if the authority
11 for overseeing Cocodrie Lake is restored to the Cocodrie Lake Game and Fish Commission.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
13 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Wildlife and
14 Fisheries to restore authority over Cocodrie Lake back to the Cocodrie Lake Game and Fish
15 Commission, particularly for managing the water gate structure at Clearwater that controls
16 the water levels of the lake.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
18 secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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 274 Original

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