

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state of Louisiana's participation in the Gulf of America Hypoxia Action Plan and Task Force.

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has been a participant in the Gulf of America Hypoxia Task Force, formerly the Gulf of Mexico Task Force, since 1998, and a signatory to the Gulf of America Hypoxia Action Plan (henceforth the "Task Force" and "Action Plan") since 2000, as cooperative endeavors utilizing voluntary actions and activities; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature has repeatedly expressed and reaffirmed its support for the Action Plan, in resolutions including House Concurrent Resolution No. 47 of the 2000 Regular Session of the Legislature, House Concurrent Resolution No. 80 of the 2007 Regular Session of the Legislature, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 40 of the 2010 Regular Session of the Legislature, Senate Resolution No. 84 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature, House Concurrent Resolution No. 70 of the 2016 Regular Session of the Legislature, House Concurrent Resolution No. 30 of the 2019 Regular Session of the Legislature, House Concurrent Resolution No. 48 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature, and House Concurrent Resolution No. 98 of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature, as have numerous associations, boards, commissions, organizations, parish councils, and police juries; and

WHEREAS, the role of the state of Louisiana's representative on the Task Force is a high-level position engaged in collaboration with upriver states, federal agencies, and other stakeholders at the level of national policy to implement the Action Plan in the Mississippi and Ohio River Basins, and must necessarily report to the governor; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Governor's Office of Coastal Activities has played this role in recent years, due to its close connection to the governor, with other state agencies acting in supporting roles on the Task Force Coordinating Committee; and

WHEREAS, state agencies have acted in a supporting capacity on the Task Force Coordinating Committee and on the state Interagency Nutrient Team, to help Louisiana fulfill its basin-level and in-state obligations under the Action Plan, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature in House Concurrent Resolution No. 49 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature, commended the cooperative conservation work of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry Office of Soil and Water Conservation (OSWC) and the important role it plays in implementing the Action Plan, and supported the OSWC being a full partner in the state's gulf hypoxia policy effort; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, on May 2, 2024, passed a resolution commending the work of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in support of the Action Plan, and in support of its full partnership in the state's gulf hypoxia policy effort; and

WHEREAS, the Action Plan is in a critical ten-year period to achieve its 2035 goal of reducing the average annual size of the Gulf Hypoxic Zone, and thus Louisiana's actions at the national and state level have a heightened level of importance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recommend to the governor that:

(1) The State of Louisiana be represented on the Gulf Hypoxia Task Force by the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities.

(2) The Louisiana Office of Soil and Water Conservation act as co-chair of the state's Interagency Nutrient Team, working cooperatively with other agencies (Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, and Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources) involved in nutrient reduction activities.

(3) The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries be included as a member of this team so it can be involved in the state's Gulf Hypoxia policy effort as a full partner.

(4) The state Interagency Nutrient Team provide an annual presentation to the House and Senate Natural Resources committees that summarizes actions taken by Louisiana state agencies to specifically help attain the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan goals in the specified period of time.

(5) Any meetings of the Interagency Nutrient Team be public, and include an invitation to the chairs of the House and Senate Natural Resources Committees, or their designees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the governor.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE