

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 14

BY SENATOR HODGES AND REPRESENTATIVE DICKERSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate the month of March 2026, as "Flood Awareness Month" in Louisiana and to commend the invaluable contributions of all professionals working every day to protect lives, homes, businesses, and communities from floods.

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana recognizes that floods are among the most common natural hazards in the United States and can occur any time, threatening life, property, and the economy; and

WHEREAS, approximately ninety percent of all natural disasters in the United States involve flooding; and

WHEREAS, flooding represents Louisiana's prevalent and pervasive natural disaster threat which poses significant risks throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, not all floods are alike, as some develop slowly, while others, such as flash floods, can develop within minutes and without visible signs of rain; and

WHEREAS, overland flooding, the most common type of flooding event, typically occurs when waterways such as rivers and streams overflow their banks due to excessive rainfall or possible levee breaches causing flooding in surrounding areas, and may also occur when rainfall exceeds the capacity of underground pipes, streets, and drainage systems designed to carry flood waters away from urban areas; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's subtropical climate has the potential to produce heavy rainfall at any time of the year, threatening residents, homes, and other properties in every parish of the state; and

WHEREAS, most injuries and deaths related to flooding occur when individuals are swept away by flood currents, while most property damage results from inundation by sediment and debris-filled water; and

WHEREAS, flood risk is determined not only by historical events but also by factors

including rainfall, topography, flood-control measures, river flow, tidal surge data, and changes resulting from new construction and development; and

WHEREAS, over the years the legislature has sought ways to address flooding across the state by enacting legislation to help prepare for natural disasters such as flooding; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the legislature enacted Act 360 of the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature requiring the Floodplain Evaluation and Management Commission to review and revise the flood control database at least once every five years, provided funds are specifically appropriated, and to ensure that no development in a parish or municipality will have negative or detrimental effects on another parish or municipality; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the legislature enacted Act 384 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Legislature creating the Rural Grant Opportunity Program to provide a mechanism for a municipality with fewer than five thousand people, or a parish with fewer than fifty thousand people located in a rural area without financial ability to provide the local match requirement of the Statewide Flood Control Program, to apply for funds; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the legislature enacted Act 368 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature permitting a local government to conduct clearing and snagging and dredging operations for drainage purposes in Bayou Manchac beginning May 1, 2021, through August 1, 2026, without requiring a permit; and

WHEREAS, the men and women who work, as well as members who serve on boards and commissions in the flood protection and storm water management industry, play a vital role in flood preparedness and provide public awareness to Louisiana residents by sharing knowledge and experience gained through decades of hazard mitigation; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of its communities, and the overall vitality of society depend, in large measure, upon the dedication of the hard working professionals in the flood protection and storm water management industry who use their talents to strengthen public infrastructure and improve resilience and safety each day and in times of disaster; and

WHEREAS, Flood Awareness Month provides an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of flood preparedness and to encourage all citizens to better prepare their homes, businesses, and communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate the month of March 2026, as "Flood Awareness Month" in Louisiana and does hereby commend the invaluable contributions of all the professionals, who are working everyday in the flood protection and storm water management industry, to protect lives, homes, businesses, and communities from flooding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the Amite River Basin Board of Commissioners.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES