

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 225

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Ouachita Parish Police Jury, and the municipalities within Ouachita Parish to jointly study a parish-wide solid waste, debris removal, and disaster resiliency service model; to evaluate consolidation of services; to explore public-private partnerships and funding mechanisms; and to report findings and recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Ouachita Parish includes multiple municipalities and unincorporated areas currently utilizing separate solid waste collection, debris removal, and cleanup systems, resulting in fragmented services, inefficiencies, and inconsistent disaster response capacity; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana routinely experiences hurricanes, floods, ice storms, tornadoes, and other natural disasters that generate massive volumes of storm debris requiring rapid and coordinated removal and disposal which often must also comply with procedures of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and

WHEREAS, parish-wide coordination of trash service, vegetative debris collection, construction and demolition waste management, and emergency cleanup operations can improve efficiency, reduce taxpayer costs, enhance resiliency, and expedite disaster recovery; and

WHEREAS, many communities across the United States have successfully implemented consolidated solid waste authorities or regional service districts that provide one-stop shop solutions for routine trash service, disaster debris response, recycling, landfill operations, and mitigation planning; and

WHEREAS, a unified parish-wide approach could strengthen emergency preparedness, improve FEMA reimbursement compliance, create economies of scale, and allow for long-term infrastructure investments such as debris staging areas, transfer stations, recycling centers, and hardened landfill facilities; and

WHEREAS, resilient waste and debris management systems are a critical component of public health, environmental protection, economic recovery, and infrastructure stability during and after disasters.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Environmental Quality, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Ouachita Parish Police Jury, and all incorporated municipalities within Ouachita Parish to collaboratively conduct a comprehensive study to address parish-wide consolidation of services, disaster debris management and FEMA compliance, resiliency and infrastructure improvements, and governance and funding models.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study of consolidation of services shall include consideration of the following:

- (1) Centralized residential and commercial trash collection.
- (2) Parish-wide debris hauling and disposal contracts.
- (3) Unified billing and service administration models.
- (4) Cost savings and rate stabilization impacts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study of disaster debris management and FEMA compliance shall include consideration of the following:

- (1) Pre-event debris removal contracts.
- (2) Designated debris management and staging sites.
- (3) FEMA documentation protocols.
- (4) Rapid deployment cleanup frameworks.
- (5) Public-private partnership opportunities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study of resiliency and infrastructure improvements shall include consideration of the following:

- (1) Hardened landfill and transfer station planning.
- (2) Recycling and waste diversion systems.

- (3) Storm surge and flood-resistant facilities.
- (4) Long-term mitigation strategies eligible for federal funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study of governance and funding models shall include consideration of the following:

- (1) Parish-wide waste authorities or service districts.
- (2) Intergovernmental agreements.
- (3) User-fee structures.
- (4) FEMA, Environmental Protection Agency, and infrastructure grant programs.
- (5) Private operator concessions or hybrid models.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the agencies and local governments referenced herein shall submit a joint written report to the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs and the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works no later than December 1, 2026, that includes the following:

- (1) Feasibility findings.
- (2) Cost comparisons.
- (3) Recommended governance structure.
- (4) Proposed implementation timeline.
- (5) Legislative actions needed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, the director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the president of the Ouachita Parish Police Jury, and the mayors and governing authorities of Monroe, Richwood, Sterlington, and West Monroe.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES