

1 WHEREAS, the people of Grant Parish have long understood that the Kisatchie
2 National Forest is far more than merely public land, but is instead an essential part of the
3 parish's identity, heritage, culture, economy, and way of life; and

4 WHEREAS, countless families throughout Grant Parish have built lifelong memories
5 within the forest through hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, horseback riding, birdwatching,
6 boating, trail riding, wildlife observing, and countless other outdoor traditions that have been
7 lovingly passed down from one generation to the next; and

8 WHEREAS, the forests, streams, and wilderness areas of Kisatchie provide a refuge
9 from the pressures of modern life and offer families, children, sportsmen, conservationists,
10 veterans, and visitors alike the rare opportunity to experience quiet solitude, natural beauty,
11 outdoor adventure, and a meaningful connection to God's creation; and

12 WHEREAS, the Kisatchie National Forest serves as an economic driver for Grant
13 Parish and surrounding communities through tourism, outdoor recreation, sporting activities,
14 hospitality, forestry, and small business development, while simultaneously preserving the
15 scenic character and rural heritage that make Grant Parish so exceptional; and

16 WHEREAS, the preservation of large, publicly accessible tracts of undeveloped
17 wilderness is becoming increasingly rare throughout the United States, making the Kisatchie
18 National Forest an even more valuable and irreplaceable asset for future generations of
19 Louisianians; and

20 WHEREAS, the citizens of Grant Parish deeply value the principle that the Kisatchie
21 National Forest belongs to the people and should remain protected and accessible for the
22 enjoyment, recreation, and benefit of present and future generations; and

23 WHEREAS, recent discussions and proposals concerning the possible transfer of
24 portions of the Kisatchie National Forest from federal ownership to ownership by the state,
25 local governmental entities, private interests, or other nonfederal ownership structures have
26 generated significant concern among the citizens of Grant Parish and throughout central
27 Louisiana; and

28 WHEREAS, while the authors and supporters of such proposals may be motivated
29 by sincere and well-intended concerns regarding land management, economic development,
30 local control, or governmental efficiency, the citizens of Grant Parish nevertheless firmly

1 believe that the long-term risks associated with fragmentation, privatization, restricted public
2 access, commercial overdevelopment, and potential loss of conservation protections
3 outweigh any perceived benefits of such transfers; and

4 WHEREAS, the desire of the people of Grant Parish is not the reduction or
5 divestiture of the Kisatchie National Forest, but rather renewed investment in the forest and
6 its surrounding communities through enhanced recreational infrastructure, expanded
7 family-friendly activities, improved campgrounds and trails, increased conservation efforts,
8 tourism promotion, and greater opportunities for outdoor education and public enjoyment;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the Kisatchie National Forest represents a sacred inheritance entrusted
11 to the current generation for careful stewardship and preservation so that future generations
12 may continue to experience the same freedom, beauty, outdoor traditions, and sense of
13 wonder that have defined life in Grant Parish for decades.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
15 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to oppose any
16 effort to transfer, privatize, divest, or otherwise remove portions of the Kisatchie National
17 Forest located within Grant Parish from federal public ownership.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives does hereby
19 recognize the extraordinary importance of the Kisatchie National Forest to the heritage,
20 identity, culture, economy, recreation, and quality of life of the citizens of Grant Parish and
21 the state of Louisiana.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives respectfully urges
23 and requests the Congress of the United States to oppose proposals seeking to transfer or
24 privatize portions of the Kisatchie National Forest and to instead work collaboratively with
25 local communities to preserve and strengthen public access, conservation, and responsible
26 stewardship of the forest.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives urges and requests
28 increased federal and state investment in outdoor recreation, tourism, conservation, trails,
29 campgrounds, youth programs, family-oriented activities, wildlife habitat management, and

1 other initiatives designed to maximize the tremendous recreational and economic potential
2 associated with the Kisatchie National Forest in Grant Parish.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
4 United States secretary of Agriculture, the chief of the United States Forest Service, the
5 presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the
6 United States of America, and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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 343 Original

2026 Regular Session

Firment

Memorializes the U.S. Congress to oppose to any effort to transfer, divest, privatize, or otherwise remove portions of the Kisatchie National Forest located within Grant Parish from federal public ownership; recognizes the extraordinary natural, cultural, recreational, and historical importance of the Kisatchie National Forest to Grant Parish and the state of Louisiana; expresses the unwavering opposition of any transfer efforts by the citizens of Grant Parish and the state of Louisiana; and urges increased federal and state investment in outdoor recreation, conservation, tourism, and family-friendly opportunities associated with the forest.