

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 344

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHAMERHORN

LEGISLATIVE POWERS: Urges and requests the Department of Conservation and Energy in consultation with the United States Geological Survey to study seismic activity in Northwest Louisiana parishes and develop a seismic monitoring strategy for Louisiana

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Conservation and Energy, in consultation with the
3 United States Geological Survey, to study seismic activity in Red River, Sabine, De
4 Soto, Caddo, Bienville, and Natchitoches Parishes, to develop a seismic monitoring
5 strategy for Louisiana, and to present a written report of its findings to the House of
6 Representatives.

7 WHEREAS, seismic activity has been reported in and around De Soto, Caddo,
8 Sabine, Natchitoches, Bienville, and Red River Parishes in recent months, including
9 earthquakes of sufficient magnitude to be felt by residents, damage property, and be detected
10 by regional and national seismic monitoring networks; and

11 WHEREAS, earthquakes arise from a variety of natural processes, including
12 movement along subsurface faults, regional geologic stresses, and other naturally occurring
13 structural processes; and

14 WHEREAS, seismic events may originate at varying depths and distances from areas
15 in which potential contributing factors are located; and

16 WHEREAS, the scientific literature recognizes that certain human activities may, in
17 some circumstances, contribute to or trigger seismic activity; and

1 WHEREAS, earthquakes of only moderate magnitude have the potential to threaten
2 the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Louisiana and may result in damage to
3 homes, infrastructure, public facilities, pipelines, transportation systems, and other property;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, understanding the geologic structures, fault systems, subsurface
6 conditions, and potential human influences associated with seismic activity is essential to
7 assessing risks and protecting public safety; and

8 WHEREAS, the precise causes, frequency, distribution, and magnitude of seismic
9 events in Northwest Louisiana and elsewhere in the state have not been fully studied or
10 documented through a comprehensive scientific investigation; and

11 WHEREAS, the Department of Conservation and Energy has begun coordinating
12 with the United States Geological Survey and universities throughout the state to gather
13 scientific data and determine the location, orientation, depth, and extent of active faults, to
14 improve ground shaking models, and to consider possible causes of the recent seismic
15 activity; and

16 WHEREAS, with the participation of local legislators and landowners in the region,
17 the United States Geological Survey has installed initial seismic monitoring equipment in
18 Northwest Louisiana and may deploy additional instruments to improve the ability to detect,
19 locate, and analyze seismic activity; and

20 WHEREAS, the Department of Conservation and Energy, the United States
21 Geological Survey, and Tulane University have conducted investigations and site visits to
22 collect and analyze data related to potential contributing factors to recent earthquakes,
23 including subsurface geologic conditions, nearby faults, and injection volumes associated
24 with regulated activities; and

25 WHEREAS, Louisiana does not presently have a seismic monitoring network that
26 provides locations in near real time, nor a mechanism to bring together experts to assess
27 earthquake activity and causal factors in Louisiana; and

28 WHEREAS, preliminary investigations have not identified any specific causal
29 connection between the seismic activity and specific industrial or subsurface operations; and

1 WHEREAS, enhanced seismic monitoring and scientific analysis is essential and
2 may assist in determining the source and characteristics of earthquake activity in the region
3 and in developing recommendations to improve prediction, preparedness, and mitigation of
4 potential seismic hazards; and

5 WHEREAS, cooperation between state and federal scientific agencies would
6 expedite a determination of causes and characteristics and aid in developing
7 recommendations for moving forward.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
9 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Conservation and
10 Energy, in consultation with Tulane University and the United States Geological Survey, to
11 gather all available data and study the causes and characteristics of seismic activity in the
12 Red River Parish region and to evaluate needs for a multipurpose state-wide seismic
13 monitoring network.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Conservation and Energy
15 shall submit its findings by written report to the House of Representatives no later than
16 February 1, 2027.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
18 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Conservation and Energy, the secretary of the
19 Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the associate director for natural hazards
20 of the United States Geological Survey, the director of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation,
21 and the director of the United States Geological Survey.

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 344 Original

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Schamerhorn

Urges and requests the Dept. of Conservation and Energy, in consultation with the U.S. Geological Survey to study earthquake activity in Northwest La., to evaluate the need for a statewide monitoring network. Requires the department submit a written report of its findings to the House of Representatives by Feb. 1, 2027.