

First Extraordinary Session, 2005

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

BY SENATOR N. GAUTREAUX

CONSUMERS/PROTECTION. Requests the Louisiana Public Service Commission to promulgate rules and regulations to protect consumers whose water or gas service ran unabated in an area declared to be a state of disaster or emergency.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Public Service Commission to promulgate rules and regulations to protect consumers whose gas service ran unabated in an area declared by the governor as a state of emergency or disaster.

WHEREAS, the citizens of the state of Louisiana have suffered greatly as a result of the damage inflicted by hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and

WHEREAS, countless citizens across this state experienced complete destruction of their homes and businesses as a result of this unprecedented disaster; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the extreme personal loss these citizens experienced through the complete destruction of their homes and businesses, they are also being presented with severe water and gas bills as a result of these services running unabated for great lengths of time; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Public Service Commission is charged with ensuring a regulatory balance that enables utilities to provide customers with safe, adequate and reliable services, at rates that are just, reasonable, equitable and economically efficient; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Public Service Commission has jurisdiction over publicly owned utilities providing electric, water, waste water, natural gas, and telecommunications services; and

1           WHEREAS, in addition to regulation provided by the Louisiana Public Service  
2 Commission relative to water and gas services, the commission is also in a unique position  
3 to harmoniously interact with other regulatory agencies and local municipalities which also  
4 provide oversight and enforcement in these areas; and

5           WHEREAS, in order to provide relief to the citizens of the state of Louisiana who  
6 have suffered such loss and devastation, rules and regulations should be promulgated to  
7 reduce the impact of these severe water and gas utility bills.

8           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
9 urge and request the Louisiana Public Service Commission to promulgate rules and  
10 regulations necessary to assist the citizens of the state of Louisiana who are being presented  
11 with severe water and gas utility bills as a result of the devastation caused by hurricanes  
12 Katrina and Rita.

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
14 members of the Louisiana Public Service Commission.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeffery T. Oglesbee.

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#### DIGEST

Requests the Louisiana Public Service Commission to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to assist the citizens of the state of Louisiana who are being presented with severe water and gas utility bills as a result of the devastation caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.