HLS 14RS-739 ENGROSSED

Regular Session, 2014

1

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 49

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHAMPAGNE

COASTAL RESOURCES: Urges and requests the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to create a body of coastal parishes to aid in compliance with the RESTORE Act

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to create a body
3	composed of officials from coastal parishes, employees or board members of the
4	Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, and other members that may be
5	necessary for the purpose of facilitating the development of the coastal parishes' land
6	use plans.
7	WHEREAS, Louisiana's coastline is comprised of 3.5 million acres of coastal
8	wetlands that represents approximately forty percent of all the coastal wetlands in the
9	continental United States; and
10	WHEREAS, on April 20, 2010, an explosion occurred on the mobile offshore drilling
11	unit Deepwater Horizon which resulted in the fire that eventually sank the rig, killing eleven
12	crewmen, and destroying Louisiana's delicate coast and industries that rely on the coast with
13	an estimated 4.1 million barrels of oil released over an eighty-seven day period from the
14	Macondo well five thousand feet below on the ocean bottom; and
15	WHEREAS, this incident has had a long-lasting impact on the state's natural
16	resources, including land, water, fish, wildlife, fowl, and other biota, and likewise on the
17	livelihoods of Louisiana's citizens living along the coast; and
18	WHEREAS, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act also known as the Clean Water
19	Act, 33 U.S.C. 1321, provides for administrative and civil penalties for parties responsible

1

for unauthorized discharge of pollutants into United States waters as occurred during the 2 Deepwater Horizon disaster; and 3 WHEREAS, these fines estimated between \$5.4 billion and \$21.1 billion would 4 ordinarily be deposited into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund pursuant to the Clean Water 5 Act; however, congress passed the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist 6 Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE) 7 that requires eighty percent of the fines to be deposited into the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust 8 Fund (Trust Fund) for restoration efforts in the five coastal states damaged by the spill: 9 Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas; and 10 WHEREAS, the monies from the Trust Fund will be principally divided into three 11 funding mechanisms, the Direct Component that evenly distributes thirty-five percent to the 12 five affected states; the Comprehensive Plan Component that directs thirty percent to the 13 Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council to implement a comprehensive Gulf Coast wide 14 recovery plan; and the Spill Impact Component that distributes thirty percent to the affected 15 states based upon a formula calculated on the miles of coastline affected by the oil spill, 16 distance from Deepwater Horizon, and the average 2010 population; and 17 WHEREAS, thirty percent of Louisiana's Direct Component share will be allocated 18 directly to coastal parishes; and 19 WHEREAS, the rules proposed by the United States Department of Treasury, which 20 administers the Trust Fund, requires a parish, prior to receiving any funds, to submit a land 21 use plan to the governor that is consistent with, or complementary to, the most recent version 22 of the state's Coastal Master Plan approved by the legislature; and 23 WHEREAS, the coastal parishes, the state, and our coastal ecosystem as a whole 24 would benefit from developing the coastal parishes' land use plan based on discussions and 25 participation in a forum of coastal parish officials, employees and board members of the 26 Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. 27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 28 urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to create a body composed 29 of officials from coastal parishes, employees or board members of the Coastal Protection and

HLS 14RS-739
ENGROSSED
HCR NO. 49

1 Restoration Authority, and other members that may be necessary for the purpose of

- 2 facilitating the development of the coastal parishes' land use plan.
- 3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
- 4 to the executive director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

## **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)]

Champagne HCR No. 49

Urges and requests the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) to create a body composed of officials from coastal parishes, employees or board members of the CPRA, and other members that may be necessary for the purpose of facilitating the development of the coastal parishes' land use plan.