

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 37

BY SENATOR BROWN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To establish the Bridge Lighting Task Force to study and make recommendations relative to the installation and maintenance of lighting on the Sunshine Bridge and the Veterans Memorial Bridge near the town of Gramercy, Louisiana; to provide for the membership of the task force; and to require the task force to make recommendations relative to funding mechanisms for installation, energy costs, and maintenance of bridge lighting.

WHEREAS, the Sunshine Bridge and the Veterans Memorial Bridge near the town of Gramercy, Louisiana, both are in need of bridge lighting; and

WHEREAS, lighting on state bridges enhances the safety of motorists; and

WHEREAS, driving is largely a visual task and the ability to see the roadway ahead and to observe conflicting traffic and the behavior of other bridge users is integral to the driving task; and

WHEREAS, lighting significantly improves the visibility of the roadway, increases sight distance, and makes obstacles more noticeable to the driver, and therefore more avoidable; and

WHEREAS, bridge lighting is a safety countermeasure that can reduce the number of nighttime crashes where lighting is installed; and

WHEREAS, in addition to traffic safety, adequate lighting provides clear benefits in terms of personal security.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish the Bridge Lighting Task Force to study and make recommendations relative to the installation and maintenance of lighting on the Sunshine Bridge and the Veterans Memorial Bridge near the town of Gramercy, Louisiana, to study all potential funding mechanisms, to determine the benefits and costs of each funding mechanism, to determine guidelines or criteria for utilization of potential funding mechanisms by the state and its political subdivisions, to determine an approval procedure applicable to the use of the funding

mechanisms, and to report all such matters to the house and senate committees on transportation, highways and public works, including recommendations for legislation, if any, relative to available funding mechanisms to install, energize, and maintain lighting on the Sunshine Bridge and the Veterans Memorial Bridge near the town of Gramercy, Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bridge Lighting Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) The senator for Senate District 2 or his designee.
- (2) The representative for House District 58 or his designee.
- (3) The representative for House District 81 or his designee.
- (4) The secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development or his designee.
- (5) The president of the Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission or his designee.
- (6) The president of the South Louisiana Port Commission or his designee.
- (7) The president of the parish of Ascension or his designee.
- (8) The president of the parish of St. James or his designee.
- (9) The president of the parish of St. John the Baptist or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of the organizations they represent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senator for Senate District 2 or his designee shall act as chairman of the task force and the representative for House District 58 or his designee shall act as vice chairman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the total membership shall constitute a quorum of the task force and any official action by the task force shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the names of the members chosen or designated as provided shall be submitted to the chairman of the task force not later than August 1, 2016, and that the chairman shall thereafter call the first meeting of the task force not later than September 15, 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall meet as necessary and shall submit its report of findings and recommendations to the house and senate committees on transportation, highways and public works, not later than January 15, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate not later than March 31, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, the president of the Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission, the president of the Port of South Louisiana Commission, the president of the parish of Ascension, the president of the parish of St. James, and the president of the parish of St. John the Baptist.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES