HLS 17RS-1467 ORIGINAL

2017 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 66

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

COASTAL RESOURCES: Memorializes congress and the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to continue appropriate funding for the National Sea Grant College Program

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to continue
3	to provide appropriate and sufficient funding for the National Sea Grant College
4	Program.
5	WHEREAS, the National Sea Grant College Program, a network of thirty-three sea
6	grant colleges and universities, was created in 1966 by the United States Congress in the
7	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the United States Department of
8	Commerce; and
9	WHEREAS, the colleges and universities designated under the National Sea Grant
10	College Program were so designated because they were involved in scientific research,
11	education, training, and extension projects and programs that were aimed at preservation and
12	practical development of coastal resources, including those along the Atlantic Ocean, the
13	Pacific Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Great Lakes; and
14	WHEREAS, the Act that created the National Sea Grant College Program stated that
15	the program was to support education, research, and extension by "Encouraging and
16	developing programs consisting of instruction, practical demonstrations, publications, and
17	otherwise, by sea grant colleges and other suitable institutes, laboratories, and public and
18	private agencies through marine advisory programs with the object of imparting useful
19	information to persons currently employed or interested in the various fields related to the
20	development of marine resources, the scientific community, and the general public."; and

1	WHEREAS, in 1978, Louisiana Sea Grant, located at Louisiana State University, was
2	designated as the thirteenth sea grant college and in its most recent program review
3	conducted by the National Sea Grant Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
4	Administration was rated as " exceeds expectations by a substantial margin in some
5	areas/aspects."; and
6	WHEREAS, Louisiana Sea Grant, similar to the agricultural extension or "county
7	agent" program of the United States Department of Agriculture, provides many educational
8	and support services to local coastal communities and businesses, including our state's
9	commercial fishermen; and
10	WHEREAS, in 2015, Louisiana Sea Grant activities in the state resulted in \$17.7
11	million in economic benefits, the establishment of nearly one hundred twenty businesses,
12	and the educational experiences of nearly twenty-nine thousand students in our elementary
13	and secondary schools; and
14	WHEREAS, Louisiana Sea Grant was also able to assist twenty-four communities
15	in the development and implementation of sustainable economic and environmental practices
16	to the benefit of those communities and their citizens; and
17	WHEREAS, Louisiana Sea Grant has been a part of the first response to many
18	coastal crises including hurricanes, floods, and even the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster, and
19	the Louisiana Sea Grant has been an essential part of the short-term and long-term recovery
20	from those disasters by local coastal communities; and
21	WHEREAS, Louisiana Sea Grant annually reaches more than twenty-five thousand
22	of our state's kindergarten through twelfth grade schoolchildren through professional
23	development for teachers and development of student coastal stewardship activities and has
24	supported more than twelve hundred graduate and undergraduate students in their quest for
25	applicable degrees and research opportunities, furthering the mission of Louisiana Sea Grant
26	to impart " useful information to persons currently employed or interested in the various
27	fields related to the development of marine resources, the scientific community, and the
28	general public"; and
29	WHEREAS, one of the programs slated to be cut by \$30 million in the Fiscal Year
30	2018 President's budget request is the National Sea Grant College Program with an

1 additional Fiscal Year 2019 budget proposal that would eliminate funding for the Sea Grant 2 program entirely; and 3 WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2018 proposed cut would eliminate the remaining 4 budget for the National Sea Grant College Program this year and, if adopted, would 5 terminate the National Sea Grant Office on the day such a budget cut became effective; and 6 WHEREAS, Louisiana Sea Grant provides vital services to the state of Louisiana and 7 its citizens through the scientific research, education, training, and extension projects and 8 programs that are aimed at preservation and practical development of coastal resources and 9 the loss of these services would deal a devastating blow to communities already stressed due 10 to the magnitude of coastal loss and repeated natural disasters, such as hurricanes and 11 flooding. 12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 13 memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to continue to 14 provide appropriate and sufficient funding for the National Sea Grant College Program, 15 including that for Louisiana Sea Grant. 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 17 presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the

## **DIGEST**

United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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)]

HCR 66 Original

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Memorializes congress and the La. Congressional delegation to take such actions as are necessary to continue to provide appropriate and sufficient funding for the National Sea Grant College Program.