

2018 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND AND SENATORS THOMPSON AND  
WALSWORTH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create a task force to study and make recommendations relative to state and local regulations, fees, and taxes on commercial transporters of oilfield and agricultural products and the funding of repairs to parish roads used by such transporters and to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works not later than January 31, 2019.

WHEREAS, trucks that haul oilfield and agricultural products must often use rural, parish roads to access pick-up and delivery points; where such roads were originally designed for local, private vehicle traffic, the weight of such trucks combined with the frequency of trips sometimes contributes to road damage; and

WHEREAS, the state constitution provides that a substantial portion of the state severance tax is remitted to the governing authority of the parish in which severance or production occurs, and such funds may be used to repair roads utilized by companies transporting oilfield and agricultural products; and

WHEREAS, some parishes require trucking companies to pay road bonds and permit fees, in addition to severance taxes; and

WHEREAS, the trucking industry is subject to regulation by the federal government, the state government, and in some cases, the Public Service Commission, and all of these layers of regulation add costs for private entities in this business; and

WHEREAS, the addition of local regulations and fees, which may vary from one parish to the next, to this already complex and costly regulatory scheme could make the operation of a trucking business cost prohibitive in some locations; and

WHEREAS, the oil and gas and timber industries are among the leading sources of revenue for Louisiana; they combine to provide employment opportunities for thousands of Louisiana citizens and greatly contribute to local economies as well, but without an effective transportation system for their products and byproducts, they would not be able to function; and

WHEREAS, recognizing, however, that parish governments often bear the costs of repairing parish roads, the legislature is considering a state permitting scheme in which revenues collected for a state permit are distributed to parish governments as a replacement for local permits, road bonds, and other local funding arrangements; and

WHEREAS, given the importance of maintaining roads in safe, working condition and the complexity of the details associated with this policy proposal, it is appropriate that the legislature should create a task force which will investigate these issues and related topics and report its findings and recommendations to the legislature.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create a task force to study and make recommendations relative to state and local regulations, fees, and taxes on commercial transporters of oilfield and agricultural products and the funding of repairs to parish roads used by such transporters and to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works not later than January 31, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the task force shall be as follows:

(1) Two members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a member of the House of Representatives.

(2) Two members appointed by the president of the Senate, one of whom shall be a member of the Senate.

(3) One member appointed by the governor.

(4) The secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development or his designee.

(5) The secretary of the Department of Natural Resources or his designee.

(6) The commissioner of agriculture or his designee.

(7) The president of the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association or his designee.

(8) The executive director of the Louisiana Forestry Association or his designee.

(9) The president of the Louisiana Motor Transport Association or his designee.

(10) The president of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation or his designee.

(11) The president of the American Sugar Cane League or his designee.

(12) The president of the Louisiana Logging Council or his designee.

(13) The president of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana or his designee, the executive director of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana or his designee, and a member of the executive board of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana selected by the board.

(14) The president of the Louisiana Municipal Association or his designee.

(15) The chairman of the House Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works and the chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works.

(16) The president of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development shall convene the first meeting, not later than September 1, 2018, and that department staff shall provide administrative support to the task force.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE