

BY REPRESENTATIVES CONNICK AND HILFERTY

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the legislative auditor to review the circumstances surrounding the New

3 Orleans Sewerage and Water Board's letting, bidding, and awarding of contracts that

4 pertain to its billing system and to review the implementation and oversight of its

5 current billing system.

6 WHEREAS, Act No. 6 of the 1899 Extraordinary Session of the Legislature created

7 the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board to furnish, construct, operate, and maintain a

8 water treatment and distribution system and a sanitary sewerage system for the city of New

9 Orleans; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1903, the Drainage Commission of the city of New Orleans was

11 merged with the Sewerage and Water Board in order to consolidate drainage, water, and

12 sewerage programs under one agency for more efficient operations; and

13 WHEREAS, the Sewerage and Water Board set out to fulfill its goals of providing

14 the city with adequate drainage, sewerage collection, and drinking water by constructing new

15 facilities with funds from a local property tax; and

16 WHEREAS the audit reports for the Sewerage and Water Board over the last three

17 years have established and found inadequate billing practices; and

18 WHEREAS, the legislative auditor issued a report in November 2018 that found that

19 the board did not have adequate written contract policies and procedures over record

20 keeping, procurement, monitoring, change orders, and payments; and

1 WHEREAS, the Sewerage and Water Board has failed to properly bill commercial
2 and residential customers; and

3 WHEREAS, the public as a whole has lost confidence in the Sewerage and Water
4 Board to properly serve the city of New Orleans and properly bill for its services; and

5 WHEREAS, the Sewerage and Water Board, by its inadequate billing, has failed to
6 collect revenue duly owed, thereby endangering the public safety and welfare of its
7 customers because the board is not providing infrastructure necessary for proper drainage
8 and sewerage collection.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
10 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the legislative auditor to review the
11 circumstances surrounding the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board's letting, bidding,
12 and awarding of contracts that pertain to its billing system and to review the implementation
13 and oversight of its current billing system, including procurement of contractors and
14 subcontractors and the sufficiency of monitoring and testing to ensure contract deliverables
15 are met.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
17 of Louisiana also requests that the legislative auditor assess the board's efforts to resolve
18 implementation issues, such as incorrect billing, and make recommendations for
19 improvement.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
21 legislative auditor and the executive director of the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board.

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)]

HR 174 Engrossed

2019 Regular Session

Connick

Requests that the legislative auditor review the circumstances surrounding the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board's letting, bidding, and awarding of contracts that pertain to its billing system and to review the implementation and oversight of its current billing system.