

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51

BY SENATOR MORRELL AND REPRESENTATIVES BOUIE AND JIMMY HARRIS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create and provide for the Louisiana Task Force on Lead-Free Water to study the problem of lead contamination in state and local water systems and recommend any action or legislation that the task force deems necessary.

WHEREAS, the delivery of safe water is essential to the health and welfare of each and every citizen and the single most important duty that a government owes its people; and

WHEREAS, lead is a naturally occurring metal but when ingested, it can accumulate in the body and cause a variety of health complications such as developmental issues, increased cancer risk, severe damage to the nervous system, reproduction system and other organs, as well as high blood pressure and anemia; and

WHEREAS, there is no level of lead exposure that is considered safe to humans; and

WHEREAS, despite its dangers, lead is still being found in many water systems throughout the state, mainly because of an aging infrastructure consisting of pipes made from lead; and

WHEREAS, there are an estimated fifty thousand lead lines in Louisiana, and many of these are located in the lines that link municipal systems to homes; and

WHEREAS, there is no greater urgency than ensuring that the people of Louisiana are being delivered water free of lead contamination.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana creates the Louisiana Task Force on Lead-Free Water to study the problem of lead contamination in state and local water systems and recommend any action or legislation that the task force deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force created herein shall consist of the following members:

(1) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee, who shall serve as the chairperson of the task force.

(2) The secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality or his designee.

(3) The chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare or his designee.

(4) The chair of the Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs or his designee.

(5) The chair of the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs or his designee.

(6) The chair of the House Committee on Health and Welfare or his designee.

(7) The chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means or his designee.

(8) The chair of the House Committee on Local, Municipal, and Parochial Affairs or his designee.

(9) The chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New Orleans or his designee.

(10) The chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Shreveport or his designee.

(11) The president of Tulane University or his designee.

(12) The president of the Senate or his designee.

(13) The speaker of the House of Representatives or his designee.

(14) The governor of Louisiana or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting such study, the task force shall study current law, policy, and efforts in Louisiana and other states to eliminate lead contamination from water systems, work with local governments to ensure the transition from lead pipes to safe alternatives, establish a timeline for such upgrades, and shall recommend any action or legislation that the commission deems necessary or appropriate.

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may conduct such meetings at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall report its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, to the legislature no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on March 1, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the governor of Louisiana, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, and the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES