

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 174

BY REPRESENTATIVES CONNICK AND HILFERTY

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the legislative auditor to 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.

WHEREAS, Act No. 6 of the 1899 Extraordinary Session of the Legislature created the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board to furnish, construct, operate, and maintain a water treatment and distribution system and a sanitary sewerage system for the city of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, in 1903, the Drainage Commission of the city of New Orleans was merged with the Sewerage and Water Board in order to consolidate drainage, water, and sewerage programs under one agency for more efficient operations; and

WHEREAS, the Sewerage and Water Board set out to fulfill its goals of providing the city with adequate drainage, sewerage collection, and drinking water by constructing new facilities with funds from a local property tax; and

WHEREAS the audit reports for the Sewerage and Water Board over the last three years have established and found inadequate billing practices; and

WHEREAS, the legislative auditor issued a report in November 2018 that found that the board did not have adequate written contract policies and procedures over record keeping, procurement, monitoring, change orders, and payments; and

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the legislative auditor to 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, including procurement of contractors and subcontractors and the sufficiency of monitoring and testing to ensure contract deliverables are met.

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES