

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 309

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAY MORRIS

TRANSPORTATION DEPT: Urges and requests the Department of Transportation and Development to reconsider the standard specifications for certain construction techniques and procedures

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to study and
3 reconsider the standard specifications for certain construction techniques and
4 procedures.

5 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Standard Specifications for Roads and Bridges was
6 published by the Department of Transportation and Development in 2016 to provide revised
7 specifications for the construction of the state transportation infrastructure needs and
8 approved them for use on construction contracts awarded; and

9 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Development made changes to
10 the standard specifications for roads and bridges and now requires surface resistivity testing
11 for all structural class concretes; and

12 WHEREAS, surface resistivity refers to the resistance experienced by the leakage
13 of current along the surface of insulating material and can also be defined as the electrical
14 resistance that exists between two parallel electrodes in contact through the surface; and

15 WHEREAS, surface resistivity measurements consider the resistive or conductive
16 properties of insulation materials and have been used to classify controlled packaging
17 materials; and

18 WHEREAS, resistivity testing applies a known voltage to the material, records the
19 current created by the voltage, uses Ohm's law to calculate the observed resistance, and
20 determines resistivity based on the specimen's physical dimensions; and

1 WHEREAS, the final resistivity measurement depends on many outside factors
2 including the voltage applied to the material, the electrification time, and environmental
3 factors, all of which have a significant impact on potential results; and

4 WHEREAS, no reliable method of obtaining resistivity has been developed and
5 applied to the standard specifications; and

6 WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the contractor to locate and furnish materials
7 which meet the outlined specifications and ensure that the materials, after being processed,
8 placed, and consolidated, will meet the criteria provided by the department.

9 WHEREAS, local rock such as limestone is not available and standard cement
10 materials cannot be used forcing contractors to incorporate materials that are much more
11 expensive and labor intensive, thus causing an increase in costs relative to bridge
12 construction; and

13 WHEREAS, the changes to the specifications place certain prohibitions on
14 contractors and their operations, which cause delays in project completion and impact
15 worker compensation; and

16 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Development should reevaluate
17 the standard specifications for roads and bridges, specifically the method by which surface
18 resistivity is tested.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
20 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and
21 Development to reconsider the standard specifications for certain construction techniques
22 and procedures.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and
24 Development complete a written report after reconsidering, at a minimum, the reliability of
25 the method for obtaining resistivity, the cost effectiveness of the method for developing
26 concrete, construction time period requirements, and a determination of the long term
27 benefits expected as a result of the specification changes.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and
29 Development report to the Senate and House committees on transportation, highways and

1 public works and to the member of the House of Representatives who represents House
2 District Number 14 on or before December 31, 2019.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
4 secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

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 309 Original

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Jay Morris

Urges and requests the Dept. of Transportation and Development to reconsider the standard specifications for certain construction techniques and procedures.

Requires that the Dept. of Transportation and Development report to the Senate and House committees on transportation, highways and public works and to the member of the House of Representatives who represents House District No. 14 on or before Dec. 31, 2019.