

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 309

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAY MORRIS

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department 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 Number 14 on or before December 31, 2019.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES