



1           WHEREAS, ninety-nine percent of the businesses of Livingston Parish were  
2 affected negatively by the 2016 flood; and

3           WHEREAS, eighteen elementary, junior high, and high school campuses were  
4 affected negatively by the 2016 flood; and

5           WHEREAS, this time the damage to Livingston Parish totaled at eight hundred  
6 million dollars; and

7           WHEREAS, Louisiana is regularly impacted by flooding throughout the state, and  
8 extreme water events have increased in both frequency and magnitude; and

9           WHEREAS, flooding after a rain event is not only related to the amount and  
10 intensity of rainfall received, but is also closely tied to land use, as well as policy and  
11 infrastructure decisions; and

12           WHEREAS, it has been alleged that median walls erected along Interstate 12 in  
13 Livingston Parish contributed to the risk of flooding in some areas by impairing the natural  
14 flow of water accumulated along the Interstate 12 corridor; and

15           WHEREAS, nothing has been done to increase the natural flow of water that could  
16 potentially accumulate as a result of the existing median wall along the Interstate 12  
17 corridor; and

18           WHEREAS, multiple programs designed to mitigate and reduce flood risk are  
19 managed by different state agencies, local entities, and political subdivisions; and

20           WHEREAS, currently flood plains are impacted by actions and decisions made by  
21 a wide variety of people, laws, and regulatory bodies, including private landowners,  
22 municipalities, parish leaders, zoning laws, building codes, statewide regulations, and  
23 federal requirements. Existing practices across varying levels of government do not  
24 currently provide for the flood plain management that is necessary to properly address  
25 drainage issues as land is developed, including in the Amite River Basin; and

26           WHEREAS, the increasing frequency and extent of flood events demands  
27 heightened levels of coordination, information sharing, and response among state agencies  
28 and other stakeholders in order to more closely align resources and programs designed to  
29 protect communities from flooding and manage flood plains and watersheds effectively;  
30 and

1           WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana is committed to increasing community and  
2 regional resilience to flooding by managing, mitigating, and adapting to future flood risk;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, the widespread disaster caused by the Great Flood of 2016 revealed  
5 how susceptible Louisiana's landscape is to flooding, particularly in Livingston Parish  
6 within the Amite River Basin; and

7           WHEREAS, the greatest impact of the Great Flood of 2016 was within the Amite  
8 River Basin located primarily in Livingston Parish and as such it is imperative to move  
9 forward with management of the Amite River Basin before the next flood event;

10          WHEREAS, Livingston Parish's recovery from the Great Flood of 2016 is a result  
11 of the resilience and determination of its citizens; and

12          WHEREAS, a study of the management of the Amite River Basin would assist in  
13 the development of an overall scheme of management for all of the watershed identified in  
14 Louisiana by the Louisiana Watershed Initiative; and

15          WHEREAS the study would also assure that management of the Amite River Basin  
16 moves forward in an accelerated manner such that flood mitigation grant funds resulting  
17 from the Great Flood of 2016 could be used to implement projects in the watershed  
18 expeditiously and ahead of the next flood event in an effort to protect the safety and welfare  
19 of the citizens living and working in the Amite River Basin.

20          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
21 direct the Department of Transportation and Development to coordinate a comprehensive  
22 assessment and study relative to managing, mitigating, and adapting future flood risks in  
23 Livingston Parish specifically as it relates to the median walls erected along the Interstate  
24 12 corridor.

25          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this comprehensive assessment and study on  
26 managing, mitigating, and adapting to flood risks in Livingston Parish shall include input  
27 from the following:

- 28           (1)    The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.
- 29           (2)    The Louisiana Water Resources Research Institute.
- 30           (3)    The Council on Watershed Management.

- 1           (4)    The Louisiana Office of Community Development.
- 2           (5)    The United States Army Corps of Engineers.
- 3           (6)    State and local political subdivisions in Livingston Parish.
- 4           (7)    Any additional stakeholders deemed relevant by the Department of
- 5                    Transportation and Development.

6           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department's study shall additionally  
7 accomplish the following:

- 8           (1)    Provide an assessment of the historical, existing and planned hurricane storm  
9 damage reduction, flood protection and drainage infrastructure and projects within the  
10 Livingston Parish that clearly depicts which communities are protected by that  
11 infrastructure given hydrologic conditions.
- 12          (2)    Provide an assessment of which communities are currently providing  
13 funding for the operations and maintenance of associated flood protection and drainage  
14 infrastructure in Livingston Parish and which communities are not.
- 15          (3)    Develop overall strategies to promote and maintain the management of the  
16 Amite River Basin within Livingston Parish.
- 17          (4)    Develop engineering solutions to improve natural water flow along the  
18 Interstate 12 corridor with existing median walls which may additionally or alternatively  
19 include engineering solutions to retrofit existing median walls to improve the natural water  
20 flow along the Interstate 12 corridor.

21          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall also include the following:

- 22          (1)    A review of the history of flood events in the Amite River Basin.
- 23          (2)    Use of the latest and most scientifically-reliable available data and  
24 technology.
- 25          (3)    Projection of costs associated with the recommended solutions.

26          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and  
27 Development shall submit a report of its study and recommendations for any statutory, rule,  
28 regulation, or policy changes relative to management of the Amite River Basin to the  
29 Legislature no later than sixty days prior to the 2022 Regular Session and deliver copies of  
30 the report to the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the

1 Senate Natural Resources Committee, the Senate Transportation, Highways and Public  
2 Works Committee, the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee, the House  
3 Transportation, Highways and Public Works Committee, the Louisiana Office of  
4 Community Development, the Council on Watershed Management, the Coastal Protection  
5 and Restoration Authority, and the secretary of the Department of Transportation and  
6 Development.

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

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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)]

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2021 Regular Session

Mincey

Directs the Dept. of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to study drainage issues in Livingston Parish. Requires the DOTD submit a report of its findings to the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate and House natural resources committees, the Senate and House transportation committees, the La. Office of Community Development, the Council on Watershed Management, and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.