

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCCORMICK

A CONCURRENT STUDY REQUEST

To the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources to meet and to function as a joint committee to study and make recommendations regarding Louisiana's underground injection control program by evaluating the regulatory framework administered by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, office of conservation; reviewing any and all local, state, and federal laws and regulations relative to the underground injection of fluids; and identifying differences in the regulation of injection wells by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and the Railroad Commission of Texas; and to report its findings to the legislature prior to the convening of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature.

12 WHEREAS, the unique geology of Louisiana has allowed this state to become an
13 abundant source of natural gas and oil; and

14 WHEREAS, it is this same unique geology that makes Louisiana an ideal location
15 for conducting underground injection operations; and

16 WHEREAS, underground injection refers to the placement of fluids into subsurface
17 geologic formations through a wellbore; and

18 WHEREAS, injected fluids may include water, wastewater, brine (salt water), or
19 water mixed with chemicals; and

1 WHEREAS, underground injection control (UIC) is generally managed and enforced
2 at the state level through the primary enforcement authority (primacy) granted to states by
3 the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and

4 WHEREAS, Louisiana and Texas each have UIC sections that administer regulatory
5 and permit programs with federal oversight from the EPA, in accordance with the federal
6 Safe Drinking Water Act, to protect underground sources of drinking water from
7 endangerment by the subsurface emplacement of both hazardous and nonhazardous fluids
8 through deep well injection and other oilfield waste disposal techniques; and

9 WHEREAS, Louisiana's UIC is managed by the Department of Natural Resources,
10 office of conservation, and Texas' UIC is managed by the Railroad Commission of Texas;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, there are six federally designated classes of injection wells; and

13 WHEREAS, each well class is based on the type and depth of the injection activity,
14 and the potential for that injection activity to result in endangerment of underground sources
15 of drinking water; and

16 WHEREAS, Louisiana and Texas have UIC programs that both permit and regulate
17 the underground injection of fluids based on these classes of wells; and

18 WHEREAS, despite operating under the same federal framework, there is little
19 continuity between Louisiana and Texas in the application of their UIC regulatory programs.

20 THEREFORE, the Legislature of Louisiana requests the House Committee on
21 Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources to
22 meet and to function as a joint committee to study and make recommendations regarding
23 Louisiana's underground injection control program by evaluating the regulatory framework
24 administered by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, office of conservation;
25 reviewing any and all local, state, and federal laws and regulations relative to the
26 underground injection of fluids; and identifying differences in the regulation of injection
27 wells by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and the Railroad Commission of
28 Texas.

1 THEREFORE, the Legislature of Louisiana further requests the joint committee to
2 consider soliciting information and suggestions from the following agencies, organizations,
3 and individuals:

- 4 (1) The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, office of conservation.
5 (2) The Louisiana Legislative Auditor.
6 (3) The Department of Geology and Geophysics, Louisiana State University.
7 (4) David Dismukes, Executive Director and Professor, Center for Energy
8 Studies, Louisiana State University.
9 (5) The Louisiana Oil and Gas Association.
10 (6) The Railroad Commission of Texas.
11 (7) The United States Geological Survey.
12 (8) Environmental Protection Agency Region 6.
13 (9) The state representative for House District Number 1.
14 (10) Jeff Watkins, Landman.
15 (11) Robert B. Raines, Jr., Raines and Associates, LLC.

16 THEREFORE, the Legislature of Louisiana requests that the joint committee submit
17 a report of its findings to the legislature sixty days prior to the convening of the 2022
18 Regular Session.

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)]

HCSR 3 Original 2021 Regular Session McCormick

Requests the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources to meet and to function as a joint committee to study and make recommendations regarding Louisiana's underground injection control program by evaluating the regulatory framework administered by the La. Department of Natural Resources, office of conservation; reviewing any and all local, state, and federal laws and regulations relative to the underground injection of fluids; and identifying differences in the regulation of injection wells by the La. Department of Natural Resources and the Railroad Commission of Texas; and to report its findings to the legislature 60 days prior to the convening of the 2022 Regular Session.