

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 227

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request that the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Transportation and Development, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and the Division of Administration's Office of Community Development work with the leadership or designees of the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana (ALBL), to recommend a legislative framework and the structure of a permanent nonstate entity to track and advocate to address, change, propose, or modify federal policy and law issues impacting flood protection and restoration throughout Louisiana and to create a structure to receive outside funding for these same purposes and to deliver a report regarding the same to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana prior to the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, the members of the ALBL, each being political subdivisions of the state of Louisiana, regularly encounter federal agency policy issues, regulatory issues, executive orders of the administration, and laws, existing or proposed, that adversely impact their ability to provide flood protection and or drainage within their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the above listed state agencies and offices also regularly encounter federal agency policy issues, executive orders of the administration, and laws, existing or proposed, that adversely impact their ability to provide flood protection, restoration, recovery, construction, rehabilitation, and other services to the residents of the state of Louisiana within their agency's charge and mission; and

WHEREAS, examples of these federal policies, circulars, guides, manuals, laws, established definitions, among others, existing or proposed, include as a way of example but are not limited to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP); the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Risk Rating 2.0; the NFIP Floodplain Management Standards; the definition of Waters of the United States; the United States Army Corps of Engineers National Levee Safety Program; the Magnuson-Stevens Act; the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act; the Reinvesting in Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems Act; regulatory guidance on EPA section 404 and 408; the Rivers and Harbors Act; the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, and FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Funding and Disaster Relief Funding; the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act; the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; and the Natural Resource Damage Assessment; and

WHEREAS, state agencies and offices can find it challenging to both affect programmatic changes in policy, procedure, and law as it pertains to the very programs they administer on behalf of the citizens of Louisiana while at the same time administering these important programs; and

WHEREAS, it is believed that the state agencies referenced in this resolution do not have an appropriate avenue to receive outside, nongovernmental funding for flood protection, drainage, restoration and other disaster recovery or remediation funds; and

WHEREAS, collectively, the above agencies and the ALBL do not have a mechanism to hire appropriate services to advocate for tracking, monitoring, or recommending change or other actions pertaining to federal agency policy issues, regulatory issues, executive orders of the administration, and laws, existing or proposed, that adversely impact their ability to provide flood protection and or drainage within their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, there is no statewide consolidated effort to provide timely responses to federal issues related to flood protection, drainage and restoration as they may arise; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Louisiana would benefit from a better coordinated state effort in the formation of an entity working for these states agencies as part of or along with the ALBL to address these federal flood protection and restoration issues timely and effectively.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Transportation and Development, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and the Division of Administration's Office of Community Development work with the leadership or designees of the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana, to recommend a legislative framework and the structure of a permanent nonstate entity to track and advocate to address, change, propose, or modify federal policy and law issues impacting flood protection and restoration throughout Louisiana and to create a structure to receive outside funding for these same purposes and to deliver a report regarding the same to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana prior to the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana, the executive director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and the executive director of the Division of Administration's Office of Community Development.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES