HLS 23RS-1485 **ORIGINAL**

2023 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 108

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD

TRANSPORTATION: Urges and requests the Department of Transportation and Development conduct a study and make plans relative to emergency evacuation routes for public safety

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development study and make
3	recommendations and plans for contraflow, evaculanes, and siren system use
4	throughout the state for public safety and to require the submission of a written
5	report of its findings.
6	WHEREAS, contraflow is a highly effective action plan with economic and logistical
7	benefits, as contraflow reduces the cost and time required to construct additional lanes to
8	increase the capacity on the roadway necessary for accelerated evacuations; and
9	WHEREAS, contraflow lanes are easier to manage and enforce during emergency
10	situations, as a driver can only enter or exit the contraflow at limited, designated points; and
11	WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Development is responsible for
12	public works and engineering functions on the state infrastructure system to implement
13	contraflow during natural and manmade disasters; and
14	WHEREAS, best practices for expediting and reducing implementation time for
15	contraflow use during emergency situations need to be followed; and
16	WHEREAS, recommendations to local mayors and parish presidents, as well as the
17	governor, would be beneficial to implementing contraflow plans and siren system use; and
18	WHEREAS, there is a necessity for identification of the needs resulting from
19	contraflow implementation; such as, bottlenecks, bridges, existing construction that could

1 present difficulties, and how to add an evaculane and a high-occupancy vehicle lane to the 2 current spillway project as well as other evacuation routes; and 3 WHEREAS, evaculanes are designed to move traffic quickly prior to or during a 4 catastrophic event by increasing capacity; and 5 WHEREAS, feasibility and costs for improving contraflow options and the ability 6 to coordinate among parties are necessary to improving a successful evacuation plan; and 7 WHEREAS, the cost of bridge repairs and the ability to expedite repairs on the 8 Highway 90 St. Tammany Parish evacuation route is unknown; and 9 WHEREAS, sirens are effective at notifying the public of impending danger, 10 including natural or manmade disasters; and 11 WHEREAS, an additional benefit to Louisiana residents includes alternative safety 12 systems such as sirens near at-risk populations to warn of impending disasters and prompt 13 citizens to listen to local radio or television stations for emergency messages; and 14 WHEREAS, the state would benefit from a study that considers the following: 15 (1) The immediate implementation of a seamless plan for contraflow. 16 (2) The implementation and oversight of siren systems. 17 (3) The impact of the lack of siren systems. 18 (4) Other safety measures to mitigate hazardous conditions. 19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 20 urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to work with 21 representatives from local political subdivisions and the Louisiana Task Force on Contraflow 22 and Sirens to study contraflow in the state of Louisiana, the implementation of alternative 23 safety mechanisms to alert residents of impending danger, and other safety measures to 24 mitigate hazardous conditions. 25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include the needs resulting from 26 contraflow implementation; such as, bottlenecks, bridges, existing construction that could 27 present difficulties, and how to add an evaculane to relevant evacuation routes and a high-28 occupancy vehicle lane to the current spillway project. 29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall consider the cost of bridge repairs

and the ability to expedite repairs on the Highway 90 evacuation route.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall culminate with the Department

- 2 of Transportation and Development providing a written report of its findings to the House
- 3 Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, the Senate Committee on
- 4 Transportation, Highways, and Public Works, and the Louisiana Task Force on Contraflow
- 5 and Sirens by February 1, 2024.
- 6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
- 7 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)]

HCR 108 Original

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Willard

Urges and requests the Dept. of Transportation and Development work with representatives from local political subdivisions and the La. Task Force on Contraflow and Sirens to study contraflow procedures, evaculanes, and siren systems used for natural and manmade disasters. Requires the department to provide a written report detailing its findings to the House and Senate transportation committees and the La. Task Force on Contraflow and Sirens by Feb. 1, 2024.