

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 61

BY REPRESENTATIVE COATES

WATER/RESOURCES: Creates a special task force to study the interagency consultation process for data centers to ensure more complete natural resource planning and management

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create and provide with respect to a special task force to study and make
3 recommendations with respect to an Interagency Consultation process for current and
4 future data centers and data processing centers to ensure more complete natural
5 resource planning and active management.

6 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy found that data center energy
7 use tripled between 2014 and 2023 and is projected to continue to grow, with estimates that
8 it could consume six to twelve percent of total United States electricity demand by 2028; and

9 WHEREAS, in addition to energy demand, data centers use a significant amount of
10 water for cooling processes and electricity generation, with larger data centers using between
11 one to five million gallons per day; and

12 WHEREAS, the number of data centers is projected to grow, with several planned and
13 proposed in Louisiana, and more data centers possible in the future; and

14 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature has enacted laws to protect, conserve, and
15 replenish the natural resources of the state to fulfill Article IX, Section 1 of the Constitution
16 of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, although Louisiana has been defined historically by an abundance of water resources, it has experienced record drought conditions in recent years, impacting both ground and surface water resources, which are already being utilized by agricultural, industrial, and manufacturing sectors; and

1 WHEREAS, the risk of potential water and energy impacts from data centers only
2 being addressed at the permitting phase could cause adverse impacts to water and energy
3 sources that may also affect existing businesses and land uses; and

4 WHEREAS, the state does not have a process for analyzing individual and
5 sector-wide water resource impacts, and the state legislature has historically expressed
6 support for developing a statewide water policy; and

7 WHEREAS, in order to secure the longevity and sustainability of Louisiana's natural
8 resources, it should consider a more proactive approach to planning and oversight that would
9 be beneficial for economic prospects and the public interest by reducing the potential for
10 future conflict and competition for resources; and

11 WHEREAS, providing for an interagency consultation process to assess the energy
12 and water impacts of planned and proposed data centers would utilize the expertise of state
13 agencies to help ensure protection of resources and predictability of planning.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15 create a special task force to be named the Interagency Data Center Consultation and
16 Assessment Group, referred to as the "Interagency Group", composed of members as
17 provided herein, to study and make recommendations regarding the growth of data center and
18 related operations, including decommissioning.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Interagency Group shall be composed of the
20 following members:

21 (1) The chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment,
22 or his designee.

23 (2) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, or his designee.

24 (3) The secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, or his
25 designee.

26 (4) The chairman of the Public Service Commission, or his designee.

27 (5) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, or his
28 designee.

29 (6) The commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, or his designee.

30 (7) The secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, or her designee.

1 (8) A member of the Water Resources Commission appointed by the secretary of the
2 Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

3 (9) The president of the Public Affairs Research Council, or his designee.

4 (10) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the chairman of the
5 House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment.

6 (11) One member of the Senate appointed by the chairman of the Senate Committee
7 on Natural Resources.

8 (12) Any additional members as the chairman of the Interagency Group deems
9 necessary.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Interagency Data Center Consultation and
11 Assessment Group shall be chaired by the chairman of the House Committee on Natural
12 Resources and Environment, and the group shall report to and be staffed by the Department
13 of Energy and Natural Resources.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Interagency Group shall:

15 (1) Investigate long-term energy and water consumption demand for or by approved
16 and potentially proposed projects.

17 (2) Identify a process in which the Interagency Group can review data center
18 proposals with meaningful opportunity to assess impacts.

19 (3) Identify options the state can consider to implement long-term water resource and
20 energy planning into project approvals.

21 (4) Identify pathways to resolve potential conflicts between water users, especially
22 in times of water shortages.

23 (5) Hold public meetings on findings and proposals.

24 (6) Produce assessment reports for each planned or proposed data center detailing the
25 above measures.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the special task force shall report its findings to
27 the legislature no later than February 27, 2026.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Concurrent Resolution shall be
29 transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, the chairman
30 of the Public Service Commission, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and

- 1 Fisheries, the commissioner of agriculture, the secretary of the Department of Environmental
 - 2 Quality, and the president of the Public Affairs Research Council.
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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)]

HCR 61 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Coates

Creates the Interagency Data Center Consultation and Assessment Group to assess the needs of current and future data centers for long-term use of water resources. Requires the group report its findings to the legislature by Feb. 27, 2026.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the original bill:

1. Add one member of the House of Representatives and one member of the Senate to the task force as well as any additional members deemed necessary by the chairman of the task force.

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide that the chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources shall serve as chairman of the task force.
2. Require that a copy of the concurrent resolution be transmitted to each entity represented on the task force.