

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 305

BY REPRESENTATIVES MANDIE LANDRY, BAYHAM, BILLINGS, BRAUD, COX, HILFERTY, ILLG, LYONS, MARCELLE, NEWELL, ORGERON, STAGNI, TAYLOR, WALTERS, WILLARD, AND ZERINGUE

A RESOLUTION

To create the Task Force on Southeast Louisiana Regional Water Purification Operations to study the feasibility of building a water purification facility to service the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and St. Charles and to provide a written report of findings and recommendations regarding the best strategies and procedures for the operation and management of such facility to the governing authorities of the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and St. Charles, the members of the legislative delegation for each parish, and the City Services Coalition no later than March 15, 2026.

WHEREAS, the provision of safe drinking water for public use and consumption is of the highest priority; and

WHEREAS, public water systems should take every necessary action to mitigate risks to safe drinking water; and

WHEREAS, the City Services Coalition has examined concerns regarding the condition of drinking water in the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and St. Charles, as well as a sincere interest in improving the quality of drinking water for the people living in the region; and

WHEREAS, the coalition has determined that safe drinking water for the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and St. Charles has been periodically challenged by saltwater intrusion in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the building of a water purification facility in St. Charles Parish, in collaboration with the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard, would offer safe drinking water for the region by consolidating water purification services; and

WHEREAS, the building of a water purification facility could be implemented through state legislation that creates a political subdivision or through cooperative endeavor agreements establishing an intergovernmental compact among the participating parishes; and

WHEREAS, a collaborative effort is essential in order to develop responsible practices to improve and maintain the quality of drinking water in the region.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Task Force on Southeast Regional Water Purification Operations to study the feasibility of building a water purification facility to service the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and St. Charles and to provide a written report of findings and recommendations regarding the best strategies and procedures for the operation and management of such facility to the governing authorities of the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and St. Charles, the members of the legislative delegation for each parish, and the City Services Coalition no later than March 15, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the following members:

(1) The governor shall appoint one member who is a resident of one of the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, or St. Charles.

(2) The speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member who is a resident of one of the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, or St. Charles.

(3) The parish president of the parish of Jefferson shall appoint one member who is a resident of the parish.

(4) The parish president of the parish of Plaquemines shall appoint one member who is a resident of the parish.

(5) The parish president of the parish of St. Bernard shall appoint one member who is a resident of the parish.

(6) The parish president of the parish of St. Charles shall appoint one member who is a resident of the parish.

(7) The mayor of the city of New Orleans shall appoint one member who is a resident of the city of New Orleans.

(8) The governing authority of the parish of Jefferson shall appoint one member who is a resident of the parish.

(9) The governing authority of the parish of Orleans shall appoint one member who is a resident of the parish.

(10) The governing authority of the parish of Plaquemines shall appoint one member who is a resident of the parish.

(11) The governing authority of the parish of St. Bernard shall appoint one member who is a resident of the parish.

(12) The governing authority of the parish of St. Charles shall appoint one member who is a resident of the parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the member appointed by the governor shall serve as the chairman of the task force, and the member appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives shall serve as the vice chairman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman shall call the first meeting of the task force, and the meeting shall be held no later than August 1, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all members of the task force shall be appointed no later than July 1, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the City Services Coalition shall provide staff support for the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may cooperate with all agencies, departments, and political subdivisions of the state of Louisiana in all undertakings the purpose of which shall be the furtherance of the objects and purposes of the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the governing authorities of the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and St. Charles, the members of the legislative delegation of each parish, and the City Services Coalition.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES