

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 265

BY REPRESENTATIVES COATES, AMEDEE, BAYHAM, BUTLER, DICKERSON,
EDMONSTON, EGAN, GALLE, KNOX, JACOB LANDRY, MACK,
MCCORMICK, OWEN, AND SCHAMERHORN

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Public Service Commission to explore technology, policy, and cost recovery mechanisms to harden the Louisiana electrical grid against electromagnetic threats.

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana is an exceptional asset to the national security of the United States of America; its strategic geographic position, maritime transportation and ports, logistics capacity, economic strength, strategic military and energy installations, abundant energy resources, refining capacity, and strategic storage locations all form a critical foundation for the defense and resilience of the nation; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is home to installations vital to America's national security, including Barksdale Air Force Base, home to the Air Force Global Strike Command, which supports America's strategic nuclear deterrence; the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans; the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Michoud Assembly Facility, the nation's premiere site for manufacturing and assembly of large-scale space structures; and the United States Strategic Petroleum Reserve, all of which are wholly dependent on the Louisiana electric grid; and

WHEREAS, the electric grid of Louisiana, integral to every facet of its national security contributions, faces existential threats from electromagnetic spectrum threats, including solar weather, through coronal mass ejections (CME's) that cause geomagnetic disturbances (GMD's); high-altitude electromagnetic pulses (HEMP's) caused by nuclear detonations; and intentional electromagnetic interference (IEMI) attacks, all capable of crippling electric power systems thereby plunging military bases, defense industrial sites,

refineries, ports, and Louisiana communities into chaos and jeopardizing the security of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the high voltage transformers sustaining the Louisiana electric grid are extremely hard to replace, some with production lead times as long as four to six years, and are critically vulnerable to ground-induced currents (GIC's), which can be generated by a GMD caused by solar weather or HEMP, and these currents can cause catastrophic damage, threatening the operation and even future restoration of Louisiana's electric grid and with it the state's military, energy, and industrial sectors; and

WHEREAS, the devastating potential of a major solar storm, evidenced by the 1859 Carrington Event, which disabled telegraph systems, and modern simulations projecting trillions in economic losses and prolonged blackouts, demands preemptive action to harden Louisiana's grid against such inevitable and catastrophic risks; and

WHEREAS, nations hostile to the United States, namely Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran, as well as terrorist organizations, view the Gulf of America as a strategic launch point for an EMP attack to cripple the United States, exploiting its proximity to critical energy infrastructure, military bases, and population centers along Louisiana's gulf coast, with military doctrines explicitly incorporating EMP strikes as a means to neutralize United States power projection; and

WHEREAS, the United States Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress Report 115-12, dated March 28, 2017, states, "A successful nuclear electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack against the United States could cause the death of approximately ninety percent of the American population. Similarly, a geomagnetic disturbance (GMD) could have equally devastating effects on the power grid," implicating America's electric grid as a critical point of vulnerability; and

WHEREAS, despite presidential executive orders by both democrat and republican administrations directing the federal government to mitigate hazards associated with solar weather and EMP, and despite the existence of tested grid hardening solutions, the Louisiana electric grid remains critically vulnerable to these threats.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Public Service

Commission, with the full weight of this Resolution and in alignment with presidential executive orders and federal mandates, congressional findings, and expert recommendations, to explore immediate and comprehensive technological measures, policy mandates, and cost recovery mechanisms to harden the Louisiana electric grid against electromagnetic spectrum threats.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Louisiana's indispensable role in the national security of the United States is hereby affirmed and its electric grid is declared a critical asset of the highest order, whose protection against electromagnetic spectrum threats such as solar weather, nuclear EMP, and IEMI, is nonnegotiable and urgent to prevent the catastrophic loss of life detailed in congressional and expert reports.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the protection of Louisiana's electric grid against electromagnetic threats requires significant investments from the state and federal government and as such the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana invites the unwavering commitment of the Louisiana Public Service Commission, the governor of Louisiana, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Department of Energy, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to this cause as the security of Louisiana and the United States and the lives of millions hang in the balance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Louisiana Public Service Commission, the governor of Louisiana, the Louisiana congressional delegation, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Department of Energy, and the chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES