

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 381

BY REPRESENTATIVES WALTERS AND CHASSION

A RESOLUTION

To create the Clean Water Task Force to study the public water system in Shreveport and report its findings no later than November 18, 2025.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health implemented the Safe Drinking Water Program that provides comprehensive drinking water protection to the citizens and visitors of Louisiana, supervising over a thousand public water systems for compliance with state and federal drinking water regulations; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Safe Water Drinking Program is to prevent illness and death that can occur from waterborne disease outbreaks or chemical exposure associated with contaminated drinking water; and

WHEREAS, the Safe Drinking Water Program monitors collection, analysis, and review of bacteriological and chemical samples to ensure compliance with maximum contaminant levels, treatment technique requirements, monitoring and analytical requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Safe Drinking Water Program conducts sanitary surveys and site inspections to evaluate the capability of a drinking water system to consistently and reliably deliver an adequate quality and quantity of safe drinking water to the consumer and to ensure compliance with state and federal drinking water regulations; and

WHEREAS, Shreveport's water system has been facing a series of issues, including a failing grade for the second consecutive year due to aging infrastructure, manganese levels, and algae blooms; and

WHEREAS, these issues have led to taste and odor problems, as well as water discoloration; and

WHEREAS, the city of Shreveport has experienced boil advisories in the past due to water quality issues; and

WHEREAS, through state legislation that creates a political subdivision or through cooperative endeavor agreements establishing an intergovernmental compact among the stakeholders; 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 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Clean Water Task Force to study the public water system in Shreveport, Louisiana.

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

- (1) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) or his designee.
- (2) The vice president of external affairs of the Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) or his designee.
- (3) The chief executive officer of Axom Development Company or his designee.
- (4) A representative of the city of Shreveport appointed by the governor.
- (5) A representative of the city of Shreveport appointed by the speaker of the House.
- (6) One appointee from the city of Shreveport Water and Sewage Department appointed by the mayor of Shreveport.
- (7) The dean of the school of Allied Health from Oschner LSUS Health System or his designee.
- (8) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) or his designee.
- (9) Two representatives of the city of Shreveport appointed by the mayor of Shreveport.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall evaluate the current condition, infrastructure, management, and sustainability of Shreveport's public water systems, and to provide recommendations to improve reliability, water quality, affordability, and long-term resilience.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall do all of the following:

- (1) Assess the condition of existing water infrastructure, including treatment plans, pipelines, and pumping stations.
- (2) Review water quality reports, boil advisory history, and public health concerns.
- (3) Analyze water utility management practices, rates, and customer service responsiveness.
- (4) Identify funding gaps and potential state and federal support options.
- (5) Recommend improvements to infrastructure, management, and policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House Committee of Health and Welfare no later than November 18, 2025.

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 shall serve as the vice chairman.

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

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 and the first public hearing by September 2, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall conduct public monthly hearings at a public facility located in Shreveport until March 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of Bossier/Shreveport Community Renewal 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 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the mayor of the city of Shreveport, the president of Louisiana State University in Shreveport, the president of Southern University Shreveport Louisiana, the president of Axom Development Company, the chairman of Shreveport Airport Authority, the interim director of Shreveport Water and Sewage Department, the president of Oschner LSUS Health System, and the president of Southwestern Electric Power Company.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES