ENROLLED

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 160

BY REPRESENTATIVE LIGI

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request local governments to discontinue the use of gas chambers in animal control offices at the earliest possible date.

WHEREAS, the reality of the use of gas chambers is not simply that the animals killed are "put to sleep", but they may be aggregated into a single cage, sometimes in a highly agitated state due to fear, and sometimes aggressively or savagely attack each other; and

WHEREAS, the effectiveness of gas chambers does not usually extend to animals that cannot, within the duration of the gassing process, adequately assimilate the carbon monoxide gas, including very young and very old animals, and consequently, they may survive the gassing process, only to be put through the process again; and

WHEREAS, such circumstances, as accounted above, can in fact be avoided by other more humane means of euthanasia; and

WHEREAS, the method of euthanasia currently in general use is by the lethal injection of a strong barbiturate, first causing unconsciousness and then death, while the animal is comforted as much as practicable; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana and national humane organizations and also an exceedingly great number of interested private citizens urge that the use of gas chambers for the killing of unwanted animals by animal control agencies be abolished immediately; and

WHEREAS, according to officials of the Louisiana Animal Control Association, there are comparatively few parishes where gas chambers are still in operation; and

WHEREAS, existing law provides for the abolishment of gas chambers, but with an effective date of January 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, it is likely that the transition from gas chambers to the more humane procedure of lethal injection can be easily accomplished well before January 1, 2013.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize that the actual in-practice use of gas chambers for the killing of unwanted animals should be discontinued and abolished in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the governing authority of each municipality or parish, as the case may be, to complete the transition to lethal injection at the earliest possible date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Police Jury Association and the Louisiana Municipal Association.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE