HLS 14RS-1579 ENGROSSED

Regular Session, 2014

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES AND SENATOR WHITE

TRANSPORTATION: Creates a task force to study and make recommendations on actions necessary to complete the construction of the Comite River Diversion Project

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To create the Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force to study and make
3	recommendations on actions necessary to complete the construction of the Comite
4	River Diversion Project.
5	WHEREAS, the Amite River and its tributary, the Comite River, are major causes
6	of catastrophic flooding in the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Area, particularly in the
7	northeastern part of East Baton Rouge Parish; and
8	WHEREAS, during the flood of 1983, substantial portions of the parishes of East
9	Baton Rouge, Livingston, and Ascension were inundated with flood waters; and
10	WHEREAS, the purpose of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project is to divert
11	flood waters from the upper Comite River to the Mississippi River; at its maximum capacity,
12	the project will divert twenty thousand cubic feet per second by gravity flow; and
13	WHEREAS, once completed, the Comite River Diversion Canal could divert fifty
14	percent of the flood waters from the upper Comite River, which would substantially reduce
15	flood stages along the lower Comite and Amite Rivers; and
16	WHEREAS, following the displacement of thousands of residents from the New
17	Orleans area after Hurricane Katrina, East Baton Rouge Parish has experienced an explosive
18	population growth and is now the most populous parish in the state, making the Comite
19	River Diversion Canal Project all the more important and urgently significant.
20	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
21	establish the Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force to meet and make

1 recommendations to the legislature and the appropriate state and federal agencies on actions

- 2 necessary to complete the construction and maintenance of the Comite River Diversion
- 3 Canal Project, including strategies to comply with mitigation requirements and right-of-way
- 4 acquisitions.
- 5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be comprised of the
- 6 following members:
- 7 (1) One member shall be the member of the House of Representatives appointed
- 8 by the speaker of the House whose district is directly impacted by the Comite River
- 9 Diversion Canal Project and who shall be the chairman of the task force.
- 10 (2) One member shall be the member of the Senate appointed by the president
- of the Senate whose district is directly impacted by the Comite River Diversion Canal
- 12 Project and who shall be the vice chairman of the task force.
- 13 (3) One member shall be appointed by the members of the Louisiana
- 14 congressional delegation representing the district in which the Comite River Diversion Canal
- 15 Project is located.
- 16 (4) One member shall be the district engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of
- 17 Engineers, New Orleans District, or his designee.
- 18 (5) One member shall be the secretary of the Department of Transportation and
- 19 Development, or his designee.
- 20 (6) One member shall be the executive director of the Coastal Protection and
- 21 Restoration Authority, or his designee.
- One member shall be a former member of the Amite River Basin board of
- commissioners appointed by the chairman of the task force.
- 24 (8) One member shall be a current member of the Amite River Basin board of
- commissioners appointed by the chairman of the task force.
- 26 (9) One member shall be the director of the Department of Public Works of East
- 27 Baton Rouge Parish, or his designee.
- 28 (10) One member shall be a homebuilder within the area impacted by the Comite
- 29 River Diversion Canal Project appointed by the president of the Louisiana Homebuilder's
- 30 Association.

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- 1 (11) One member shall be a realtor in the area impacted by the Comite River
- 2 Diversion Canal Project appointed by the Louisiana Realtors Association.
- 3 One member shall be a representative of the Federal Emergency Management
- 4 Agency (FEMA) appointed by the director of FEMA's Louisiana Recovery Office.
- 5 One member shall be a landowner in the area impacted by the Comite River
- 6 Diversion Canal Project appointed by the Louisiana Landowners Association.
- 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint committee shall submit
- 8 recommendations to the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works
- 9 and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works no later than
- 10 January 15, 2015.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this task force will be staffed by the House
- 12 Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works staff for all meetings of the task
- 13 force.

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)]

Hodges HCR No. 51

Establishes the Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force to study and make recommendations to the legislature on actions necessary to complete the construction of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project. Provides that the committee submit a final report to the House of Representatives by Jan. 15, 2015. Provides that the task force will be staffed by the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works. Provides that the task force be composed of the following members:

- (1) One member shall be the member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker whose district is directly impacted by the Comite River Diversion Canal Project and who shall be the chairman of the task force.
- (2) One member shall be the member of the Senate appointed by the president whose district is directly impacted by the Comite River Diversion Canal Project and who shall be the vice chairman of the task force.
- (3) One member shall be appointed by the members of the Louisiana congressional delegation representing the district in which the Comite River Diversion Canal Project is located.
- (4) One member shall be the district engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, or his designee.
- One member shall be the secretary of the Dept. of Transportation and Development, or his designee.

(6) One member shall be the executive director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, or his designee.

- (7) One member shall be a former member of the Amite River Basin board of commissioners appointed by the chairman of the task force.
- (8) One member shall be a current member of the Amite River Basin board of commissioners appointed by the chairman of the task force.
- (9) One member shall be the director of the Dept. of Public Works of East Baton Rouge Parish, or his designee.
- (10) One member shall be a homebuilder within the area impacted by the Comite River Diversion Canal Project appointed by the president of the Louisiana Homebuilder's Association.
- One member shall be a realtor in the area impacted by the Comite River Diversion Canal Project appointed by the Louisiana Realtors Association.
- (12) One member shall be a representative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) appointed by the director of FEMA's Louisiana Recovery Office.
- (13) One member shall be a landowner in the area impacted by the Comite River Diversion Canal Project appointed by the Louisiana Landowners Association.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Transportation, Highways</u> and <u>Public Works</u> to the <u>original</u> concurrent resolution.

- 1. Provided that the House and Senate members shall represent districts directly impacted by the Comite River Diversion Canal Project.
- 2. Added a landowner in the area impacted by the project who is appointed by the Louisiana Landowners Association to the task force.