

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 136

BY SENATOR THOMPSON

LEGIS POWERS/FUNCTIONS. Reactivates the Ancient Mounds Heritage Area and Trails Advisory Commission.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the public policy of the state of Louisiana to provide for the protection of the mounds, ridges, and other features associated with the Monumental Earthworks of Poverty Point; to protect the agricultural setting, which enhances the education, inspiration, and enrichment of all who visit the Poverty Point Historic Site; and to reactivate the Ancient Mounds Heritage Area and Trails Advisory Commission to provide a framework for this protection.

WHEREAS, the Poverty Point earthworks, located in Epps, Louisiana, were constructed approximately 3,400 years ago by a complex society of Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Poverty Point earthworks have significantly shaped understanding of Native American cultural development and heritage in North America; and

WHEREAS, the Poverty Point earthworks include mounds, concentric C-shaped ridges, and a massive plaza that contained circles of large wooden posts; and

WHEREAS, Poverty Point, which is owned by the state of Louisiana and is managed by the Louisiana Office of State Parks as a state historic site, is currently listed as a National Historic Landmark and a National Monument; and

WHEREAS, Poverty Point State Historic Site has been nominated to the UNESCO World Heritage List as a unique and exceptional testimony to a past cultural tradition; and

1 WHEREAS, the designation as a World Heritage Site will attract domestic and  
2 international tourists to the Poverty Point State Historic Site and to the region, and will  
3 distinguish Louisiana both nationally and internationally; and

4 WHEREAS, the largely open natural and agricultural landscape surrounding Poverty  
5 Point State Historic Site contributes to the understanding of the site; and

6 WHEREAS, the setting of Poverty Point State Historic Site is treated by the  
7 Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office as an area of special consideration when  
8 advising federal agencies; and

9 WHEREAS, the Ancient Mounds Trail initiative, led by the Ancient Mounds  
10 Heritage Area and Trails Advisory Commission, successfully worked with private  
11 landowners to mark and interpret thirty-nine mound sites in northeast and central Louisiana;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the *Heritage Management Plan for Poverty Point State Historic Site*,  
14 *National Monument & National Historic Landmark* lists as a key management objective to  
15 nurture working relationships with other agencies, organizations, interested stakeholders,  
16 descendent groups, and neighbors to enhance site protection, management, presentation, and  
17 promotion; and

18 WHEREAS, the Ancient Mounds Heritage Area and Trails Advisory Commission  
19 was established in 1997 as a private-public initiative to help preserve Louisiana's prehistoric  
20 patrimony and to better understand the state's heritage.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
22 reactivate the Ancient Mounds Heritage Area and Trails Advisory Commission, which shall  
23 be composed of four members appointed by the lieutenant governor who are domiciled in  
24 northeast or central Louisiana (at least two of which are domiciled in West Carroll or East  
25 Carroll parishes); four members from the Office of the Lieutenant Governor/Louisiana  
26 Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism; the Poverty Point Station Archaeologist;  
27 and two members representing federally recognized Indian tribes.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Ancient Mounds Heritage Area  
29 and Trails Advisory Commission shall receive no compensation for their service on the  
30 commission.

1           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ancient Heritage Area and Trails Advisory  
2 Commission will establish diverse strategies for maintaining protection of the setting  
3 surrounding Poverty Point State Historic Site; will facilitate communication among  
4 stakeholders; will encourage archaeological study of the area; and will provide for cultural  
5 enhancement, educational opportunities, and tourism development. The commission shall  
6 advise the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism about preservation and  
7 safety measures regarding Poverty Point State Historic Site and its setting.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

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DIGEST

Thompson

SCR No. 136

Reactivates the Ancient Mounds Heritage Area and Trails Advisory Commission.