SLS 15RS-1088 ORIGINAL

2015 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 89

BY SENATOR ALLAIN

CONSERVATION. Establishes a task force to study the performance audit on the regulation of oil and gas wells and management of orphaned wells.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To establish a task force to study the performance audit on the regulation of oil and gas
3	wells and management of orphaned wells.
4	WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry is a vital part of Louisiana's economy; and
5	WHEREAS, effective regulation is important for efficient operation of the industry,
6	reducing environmental and public safety risks, preventing the contamination of ground and
7	surface water, and preventing operators from abandoning their wells; and
8	WHEREAS, in May 2014, the Louisiana legislative auditor released a performance
9	audit analyzing the oil and gas regulatory program, which is administered by the office of
10	conservation, Department of Natural Resources; and
11	WHEREAS, the purpose of the performance audit was to determine whether the
12	office of conservation regulates oil and gas wells effectively to ensure operators comply with
13	regulations and to evaluate whether the office of conservation has managed the number of
14	orphaned wells effectively in the state; and
15	WHEREAS, establishing a task force of stakeholders and experts is an important first
16	step in analyzing and achieving the goals outlined in the report.
17	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
18	establish a task force to address the issues outlined in the performance audit and any current

1	and proposed rules promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources relative to the
2	financial security for the plugging and abandonment of oil and gas wells and determinations
3	of future utility, and to report its findings to the legislature.
4	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the
5	following members:
6	(1) The chairman of the Oilfield Site Restoration Commission or his designee.
7	(2) The commissioner of conservation or his designee.
8	(3) The president of the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association or his
9	designee.
10	(4) The president of the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association or his designee.
11	(5) The executive director of the Louisiana Landowners Association, Inc. or his
12	designee.
13	(6) The Louisiana legislative auditor or his designee.
14	(7) One member of the Louisiana State Senate, appointed by the president.
15	(8) One member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, appointed by the
16	speaker.
17	(9) One member, chosen by the chairman of the Oilfield Site Restoration
18	Commission, from those companies listed as an operator of record with the office of
19	conservation for the greatest number of inactive wells no longer producing oil and gas.
20	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve
21	without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be
22	individually entitled as members of the constituent organization.
23	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the total membership shall
24	constitute a quorum of the task force and any official action by the task force shall require
25	an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present when voting.
26	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall meet as necessary and shall
27	report its findings to the legislature no later than February 1, 2016, and shall terminate upon
28	the date of submission of such report or on February 1, 2016, whichever comes first.
29	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, the commissioner of conservation, the

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director of the Louisiana Mineral Law Institute, the president of the Louisiana

- Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, the president of the Louisiana Oil and Gas
- 3 Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Landowners Association, and the
- 4 Louisiana legislative auditor.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by McHenry Lee.

DIGEST 2015 Regular Session

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