

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 193

BY REPRESENTATIVE HILFERTY

A RESOLUTION

To create the Task Force on New Orleans Sewerage, Water, and Drainage Utilities to study issues related to the management of sewerage, water, and drainage facilities and services in the city of New Orleans and to provide a written report of findings and recommendations regarding the best strategies and procedures for the management of such facilities and services to the mayor of the city of New Orleans, the New Orleans City Council, and the members of the Orleans Parish legislative delegation not later than January 31, 2019.

WHEREAS, Act No. 6 of the 1899 Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature created the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board to furnish, construct, operate, and maintain a water treatment and distribution system and a sanitary sewerage system for the city of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, in 1903, the Drainage Commission of the city of New Orleans was merged with the Sewerage and Water Board in order to consolidate drainage, water, and sewerage programs under one agency for more efficient operations; and

WHEREAS, as the population of the city of New Orleans grew rapidly over the next one hundred years, the Sewerage and Water Board faced many new challenges in its attempt to provide efficient sewerage, water, and drainage services to the city's residents; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Hurricane Katrina severely damaged the facilities of the Sewerage and Water Board, and the board has had to contend with rebuilding those facilities and making necessary infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, costs associated with providing sewerage, water, and drainage services to the city's residents continue to escalate, and the city's population is again on the rise; and

WHEREAS, over the last several years, many residents, business owners, and local officials have questioned whether the Sewerage and Water Board is the best entity to manage sewerage, water, and drainage facilities and services in the city of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, suggestions abound regarding the best management options for the city's sewerage, water, and drainage facilities and services, including but not limited to public-private partnerships, granting control to the city, or allowing the Sewerage and Water Board to retain control; and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for a comprehensive review of the management options for sewerage, water, and drainage facilities and services in the city of New Orleans, including a review of the state law governing the Sewerage and Water Board, as provided in R.S. 33:4071 et seq., so that the residents of the city can have confidence that such facilities and services are being managed as efficiently as possible.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Task Force on New Orleans Sewerage, Water, and Drainage Utilities to study issues related to the management of sewerage, water, and drainage facilities and services in the city of New Orleans and to provide a written report of findings and recommendations regarding the best strategies and procedures for the management of such facilities and services to the mayor of the city of New Orleans, the New Orleans City Council, and the members of the Orleans Parish legislative delegation not later than January 31, 2019.

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

- (1) The mayor of the city of New Orleans or his designee.
- (2) The chairperson of the Public Works, Sanitation and Environment Committee of the New Orleans City Council or his designee.
- (3) A representative of the New Orleans chapter of the Louisiana Engineering Society designated by the president of the chapter.
- (4) The general superintendent of the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board or his designee.
- (5) A representative of the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau designated by the president of the bureau.

- (6) A representative of the Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region designated by the chair of the council.
- (7) A representative of the New Orleans Office of Inspector General designated by the inspector general.
- (8) A member of the New Orleans Board of Liquidation, City Debt designated by the board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that mayor or his designee shall serve as the chairman of the task force and the chairperson of the Public Works, Sanitation and Environment Committee of the New Orleans City Council or his designee shall serve as the vice chairman.

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, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all representatives and designees shall be named no later than July 1, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the mayor of the city of New Orleans, the New Orleans City Council, and the members of the Orleans Parish legislative delegation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES