

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY SENATORS LAMBERT AND BARROW

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Environmental Quality to study and make recommendations for strategies to increase the recycling of plastic.

WHEREAS, economic development and people's changing patterns of consumption and production have led to a drastic increase in plastic wastes in Louisiana as it has across the globe; and

WHEREAS, the lack of adequate recycling of plastic waste harms the environment and poses threat to human health, and therefore, there is great desire to reduce plastic wastes; and

WHEREAS, a large portion of litter is composed of plastic that negatively effects our environment, our communities, and our economy; and

WHEREAS, this litter directly impacts the environment through habitat destruction in marine and aquatic ecosystems, largely through storm water runoff, and to pet and wildlife injury and death due to litter entanglement, toxicity, and ingestion; and

WHEREAS, according to a study commissioned by Keep Louisiana Beautiful, the direct economic impact of paying to have litter collected and disposed of costs local and state government forty million dollars per year; and

WHEREAS, this forty-million-dollar-per-year price tag is in addition to other direct costs incurred for enforcing litter laws and developing programs and advertisements encouraging and educating citizens on the dangers of litter and the indirect economic impacts including real estate devaluation, loss of new industry and business, and loss of tourism and ecotourism; and

WHEREAS, by consulting with other governmental and nongovernmental entities and the business community, the department can explore innovative strategies and those that have proven successful in other jurisdictions to increase recycling plastic; and

WHEREAS, a flourishing plastic recycling effort would further make the construction and operation of advanced recycling facilities, provided for in Act No. 460 of the 2021 R.S., economically feasible by supplying constant material for processing back into basic components to manufacture into new products and thereby reduce litter on our otherwise scenic roadways and waterways; and

WHEREAS, the advanced recycling and recycling facilities would have the additional benefit of creating additional jobs and economic opportunities for our citizens and businesses.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Environmental Quality, in consultation with any governmental entity, nongovernmental organization, or stakeholder the department finds useful or necessary, to study strategies to increase the recycling of plastic and to report recommendations to the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality and the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment by March 10, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES