

Regular Session, 2007

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 229

BY REPRESENTATIVE GRAY AND SENATOR HINES

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the governor to establish a task force to study and make recommendations for implementation of the recommendations of the *Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan* relative to a comprehensive Office of State Planning.

WHEREAS, the *Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan* is an integrated, phased plan for the future of Louisiana that incorporates both strategic planning for the entire state and physical planning for South Louisiana as well as a recommendation to immediately extend physical planning to incorporate North and Central Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the *Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan* contains sixteen strategies broken down into more than one hundred action items; and these are phased into "Recover Sustainably" (now-to-ten years), "Grow Smarter" (now-to-fifty years), and "Think Regionally" (planning and implementation reforms and actions); and

WHEREAS, the *Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan* meaningfully integrates, for the first time in Louisiana and anywhere in the United States, issues including coastal protection and restoration, transportation, community growth, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the *Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan* is described in full in a ninety-six-page document first published in May 2007, with extensive appendices on CD-ROM, that is available at www.louisianaspeaks.org and will soon be reissued in print; and a *Louisiana Speaks Strategic Implementation Plan* will be available later this summer, in which every strategy and action item will be connected with funding characteristics, responsible parties, timelines, and benchmarking/monitoring criteria for ongoing evaluation; and

WHEREAS, the *Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan* process was funded entirely through private funds (public funds were used only for printing and publication), the plan was created and executed in an innovative public-private partnership between the Louisiana

Recovery Authority and nonprofit partners, and the *Louisiana Speaks* planning team was led by top planners from across the country and from within Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the *Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan* reflects the input of nearly twenty-seven thousand Louisianians, representing every parish in the state, including people displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita both within the state and across the nation, including Louisianians of all ethnicities, demographics, and regions, and this input was collected through a robust combination of statistically valid, randomized surveys, day-long, map-based stakeholder workshops, and a massive "polling" campaign in which people from across the state had a chance to "weigh in" on directions for the future of the state; and

WHEREAS, the *Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan* was developed in cooperation and consultation with members of the Louisiana Legislature; the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), Louisiana Economic Development (LED), the Louisiana division of administration, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (CRT), and other state agencies; the regional planning commissions, metropolitan planning organizations and/or planning and development districts representing metro New Orleans (including the Northshore), metro Baton Rouge, metro Houma-Thibodaux, metro Lafayette, and metro Lake Charles; local and parish planners and recovery-planning teams in Orleans Parish, Cameron Parish, St. Bernard Parish, Vermilion Parish, Calcasieu Parish, and the other parishes in southern Louisiana; the Louisiana United States congressional delegation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and other federal partners; and

WHEREAS, the *Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan* was built upon the solid planning foundation created by the aforementioned entities, including but in no way limited to: the CPRA Master Plan, the DOTD State Transportation Plan, the MPO Transportation Improvement Plans, *Vision 2020*, and preexisting parish master plans; the Unified New Orleans Plan and the New Orleans Recovery Plan, FEMA ESF-14 Parish Recovery Plans and the Recovery Planning Tool, *Louisiana Speaks* design workshops for Cameron, St. Bernard Parish, Vermilion Parish, and Lake Charles, and other recovery-planning efforts; the *Louisiana Speaks Pattern Book* and *Louisiana Speaks Planning Toolkit*; and more; and

WHEREAS, the *Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan* was developed in cooperation and consultation with a distinguished group of Louisiana leaders from across the state in sectors including civic, business, religious, nonprofit, and other positions of community leadership, who have become known as "Champions" of *Louisiana Speaks*, and this Champions group has helped ground-check the plan as it was developed and proposes to continue pushing for the short- and long-term implementation of the *Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan*; and

WHEREAS, the *Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan* recommends the creation of an Office of State Planning that would work effectively to coordinate and add capacity to existing state agencies, regional planning, and local planning by favoring incentives over regulation (see *Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan*, "Vision Goal 3: Think Regionally" Actions 2.1-2.4); and

WHEREAS, though the office of planning and budget in the division of administration currently has limited state planning responsibilities, its focus is primarily on budget matters, and *Louisiana Speaks* has demonstrated the need for a comprehensive approach to planning for the state and how effective and beneficial a comprehensive approach to planning can be.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco to establish a task force to study and make recommendations for implementation of the recommendations of the *Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan* relative to a comprehensive Office of State Planning, including proposed legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the conduct of the study the task force shall be guided by the *Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan* ("Vision Goal 3: Think Regionally" Actions 2.1-2.4) and the forthcoming *Louisiana Speaks Strategic Implementation Plan*.

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

- (1) Four members appointed by the governor.
- (2) One member appointed by the commissioner of administration.
- (3) One member of the *Louisiana Speaks* Champions group, appointed by the chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority.

(4) A representative of each of the following groups or organizations, selected by the respective group or organization:

- (a) The Louisiana Recovery Authority.
- (b) The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.
- (c) The Louisiana Police Jury Association.
- (d) The Louisiana Municipal Association.
- (e) The Louisiana Association of Planning and Development Districts.
- (f) The American Planning Association, Louisiana Chapter.
- (g) The Center for Planning Excellence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that task force members shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authorities and vacancies shall be filled in the manner of the original appointment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor shall be responsible for convening the task force for its first meeting no later than August 30, 2007.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff for the task force shall be provided by the Louisiana Recovery Authority planning staff and that all branches, departments, and agencies of state and local government shall cooperate with and assist the work of the task force as requested by the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the governor and the legislature by not later than February 15, 2008.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco and to Dr. Norman Francis, Chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE