

water storage opportunities, water supply reliability, and water yield of San Vicente, El Capitan, Murray, and Loveland Reservoirs in San Diego County, California in consultation and cooperation with the City of San Diego and the Sweetwater Authority, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2383. An act to redesignate the facility of the Bureau of Reclamation located at 19550 Kelso Road in Byron, California, as the "C.W. 'Bill' Jones Pumping Plant".

H.R. 3505. An act to provide regulatory relief and improve productivity for insured depository institutions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4167. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for uniform food safety warning notification requirements, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4192. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate the President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home in Hope, Arkansas, as a National Historic Site and unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4472. An act to protect children, to secure the safety of judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and their family members, to reduce and prevent gang violence, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House disagree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2830) to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the pension funding rules, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints the following as managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment thereto, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. McKEON, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KLINE, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. ANDREWS.

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment thereto, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. THOMAS, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, and Mr. RANGEL.

For consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment thereto, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. BOEHNER.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The following enrolled bills, previously signed by the Speaker of the House, were signed yesterday, March 8, 2006, by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

H.R. 3199. An act to extend and modify authorities needed to combat terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 2271. An act to clarify that individuals who receive FISA orders can challenge non-disclosure requirements, that individuals who receive national security letters are not required to disclose the name of their attorney, that libraries are not wire or electronic communication service providers unless they provide specific services, and for other purposes.

S. 1578. An act to reauthorize the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin endan-

gered fish recovery implementation programs.

S. 2089. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1271 North King Street in Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii, as the "Hiram L. Fong Post Office Building".

H.R. 32. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide criminal penalties for trafficking in counterfeit marks.

H.R. 1287. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 312 East North Avenue in Flora, Illinois, as the "Robert T. Ferguson Post Office Building".

H.R. 2113. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 McDonough Street in Joliet, Illinois, as the "John F. Whiteside Joliet Post Office Building".

H.R. 2346. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 105 NW Railroad Avenue in Hammond, Louisiana, as the "John J. Hainkel Post Office Building".

H.R. 2413. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1202 1st Street in Humble, Texas, as the "Lillian McKay Post Office Building".

H.R. 2630. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1927 Sangamon Avenue in Springfield, Illinois, as the "J.M. Dietrich Northeast Annex".

H.R. 2894. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 102 South Walters Avenue in Hodgenville, Kentucky, as the "Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Post Office Building".

H.R. 3256. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3038 West Liberty Avenue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the "Congressman James Grove Fulton Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 3368. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6483 Lincoln Street in Gagetown, Michigan, as the "Gagetown Veterans Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 3439. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 North 3rd Street in Smithfield, North Carolina, as the "Ava Gardner Post Office".

H.R. 3548. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located on Franklin Avenue in Pearl River, New York, as the "Heinz Ahlmeier, Jr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 3703. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8501 Philatelic Drive in Spring Hill, Florida, as the "Staff Sergeant Michael Schafer Post Office Building".

H.R. 3770. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 205 West Washington Street in Knox, Indiana, as the "Grant W. Green Post Office Building".

H.R. 3825. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 770 Trumbull Drive in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the "Clayton J. Smith Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 3830. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 130 East Marion Avenue in Punta Gorda, Florida, as the "U.S. Cleveland Post Office Building".

H.R. 3989. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 37598 Goodhue Avenue in Dennison, Minnesota, as the "Albert H. Quie Post Office".

H.R. 4053. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 545 North Rimsdale Avenue in Covina, California, as the "Lillian Kinkella Keil Post Office".

H.R. 4107. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1826 Pennsylvania Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "Maryland State Delegate Lena K. Lee Post Office Building".

H.R. 4152. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 High Street in Clinton, Massachusetts, as the "Raymond J. Salmon Post Office".

H.R. 4295. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12760 South Park Avenue in Riverton, Utah, as the "Mont and Mark Stephens en Veterans Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 4515. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4422 West Sciota Street in Scio, New York, as the "Corporal Jason L. Dunham Post Office".

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1190. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study to design and construct a four reservoir intertie system for the purposes of improving the water storage opportunities, water supply reliability, and water yield of San Vicente, El Capitan, Murray, and Loveland Reservoirs in San Diego County, California in consultation and cooperation with the City of San Diego and the Sweetwater Authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2383. An act to redesignate the facility of the Bureau of Reclamation located at 19550 Kelso Road in Byron, California, as the "C.W. 'Bill' Jones Pumping Plant"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3505. An act to provide regulatory relief and improve productivity for insured depository institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4167. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for uniform food safety warning notification requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4192. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate the President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home in Hope, Arkansas, as a National Historic Site and unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, March 9, 2006, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 1578. An act to reauthorize the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin endangered fish recovery implementation programs.

S. 2089. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1271 North King Street in Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii, as the "Hiram L. Fong Post Office Building".

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-264. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to using funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for modular homes as alternative housing for those affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

Whereas, it is estimated that the two hurricanes rendered at least two hundred thousand to two hundred fifty thousand homes permanently uninhabitable, leaving those families without a home to return to; and

Whereas, in an effort to move people out of shelters and into longer term housing and to foster an environment that would allow families the privacy needed to re-establish some sense of normalcy, FEMA ordered one hundred twenty thousand travel trailers and announced a plan to establish FEMA trailer parks for evacuees; and

Whereas, while travel trailers may be adequate as a short-term housing solution, trailers are not adequate for the years it may require to rebuild the Gulf Coast cities, towns, and communities destroyed by the hurricanes, and evacuees and their families need a more appropriate housing solution during the long rebuilding period; and

Whereas, state and local leaders continue to try to find appropriate housing for hundreds of thousands of families still without adequate temporary housing; and

Whereas, approximately twenty-seven thousand families in FEMA-funded hotel rooms continue to face looming deadlines of forced eviction; and

Whereas, modular homes that are engineered and built in a factory-controlled environment and are constructed in sections and put together by a builder on a building site would provide more appropriate housing for the long rebuilding period ahead; and

Whereas, our goal should be to build new and better neighborhoods that support a better quality of life for displaced residents: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana urge and request the Congress of the United States and the governor to consider using funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for modular homes as alternative housing; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress and to the governor.

POM-265. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to ensuring enactment of legislation to require the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide the same level of assistance to the residents of certain parishes who were affected by Hurricane Rita as the residents of Louisiana affected by Hurricane Katrina, including funding assistance with demolition and removal of damaged housing; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

Whereas, Hurricane Katrina struck many parishes in Louisiana on August 29, 2005, causing devastating damage to life and property in a wide area including the parishes of Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Plaquemines, and other parishes; and

Whereas, Hurricane Rita struck several parishes in Louisiana on September 24, 2005,

heavily affecting portions of Iberia Parish and other parishes and also causing devastating damage to property; and

Whereas, both hurricanes caused devastating damage to the affected areas and dramatically affected the lives and livelihoods of thousands of persons, in addition to adversely affecting the budgets of local, state, and federal governments; and

Whereas, the costs for demolition and removal of damaged housing and hurricane-related debris as a result of these hurricanes will be astronomical; and

Whereas, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides assistance to persons affected by disasters such as hurricanes based on percentages determined from populations and areas affected; and

Whereas, assistance to all persons affected by these disasters should be impartially distributed by the state and federal governments, as all persons affected by hurricane damages have suffered similar losses, such as flooded houses, loss of homes, and loss of jobs and businesses, and are all affected in the same manner, whether their residences or businesses are located in heavily populated areas or are included in larger areas of their respective parishes that were affected by such storm damage, and they should be compensated in the same manner; and

Whereas, FEMA assistance to those so severely affected by hurricane damage, no matter which parish their property is located in, should also include funding assistance for the demolition and removal of damaged buildings: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request President George W. Bush, Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, and the Louisiana congressional delegation to ensure enactment of legislation to require the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide the same level of assistance to the residents of Iberia, Beauregard, Allen, Evangeline, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, Acadia, St. Landry, St. Martin, Lafayette, Cameron, Vermilion, and St. Mary parishes who were affected by Hurricane Rita as the residents of Louisiana affected by Hurricane Katrina, including funding assistance with demolition and removal of damaged housing; be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Governor of Louisiana, the members of the Louisiana congressional delegation, and the governing authority of each parish within the declared disaster area following Hurricane Rita.

POM-266. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to taking such actions as are necessary to immediately close the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and return the area to essential coastal wetlands and marshes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24

Whereas, the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO), a seventy-six-mile, manmade navigational channel which connects the Gulf of Mexico to the Port of New Orleans along the Mississippi River, was authorized by the United States Congress under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1956 as a channel with a surface width of six hundred fifty feet, a bottom width of five hundred feet, and a depth of thirty-six feet, and it opened in 1965; and

Whereas, since MRGO was completed, the Army Corps of Engineers estimates that the area has lost nearly three thousand two hundred acres of fresh and intermediate marsh, more than ten thousand three hundred acres of brackish marsh, four thousand two hundred acres of saline marsh, and one thousand

five hundred acres of cypress swamps and levee forests in addition to major habitat alterations due to saltwater intrusion from the loss of the marshes, which has resulted in dramatic declines in waterfowl and quadruped use of the marshes; and

Whereas, the costs of maintaining MRGO rise each year, with the cost of dredging now over twenty-five million dollars annually, or more than thirteen thousand dollars for each vessel-passage, in addition to the expenditure of millions for shoreline stabilization and marsh protection projects, with an anticipated cost increase of fifty-two percent between 1995 and 2005; and

Whereas, concerns about the environmental impact have increased through the years as evidenced by the fact that in 1998 the "Coast 2050 Report" contained closure of MRGO among the consensus recommendations, and the technical committee of the Coastal Wetland Planning, Preservation and Restoration Act Task Force listed closure as one of the highest-ranked strategies for coastal restoration; and

Whereas, with the waterway increasing from its original authorized dimensions to a surface width of twenty-two hundred feet and a depth of over forty feet, in 1998 the St. Bernard Police Jury voted unanimously to request closure of the waterway because of fears that the dramatic loss of coastal wetlands and marshes caused by MRGO exposed the parish and the communities in the parish to much more severe impacts from the hurricanes and tropical storms that regularly occur in the Gulf of Mexico; and

Whereas, those concerns were echoed and amplified by scientists, engineers, and citizens throughout the region as reflected in requests from the Louisiana Legislature to congress in 1999 (SCR No. 266) and again in 2004 (HCR No. 35 and HCR No. 68) to close the waterway, and indeed, those concerns proved true in an extremely dramatic fashion on August 29, 2005, when Hurricane Katrina washed ashore on Louisiana's coast with a tidal surge well in excess of twenty feet; and

Whereas, there is a growing consensus that the flooding that occurred in St. Bernard Parish and the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans was a result of storm surge that flowed up MRGO to the point where it converges with the Intracoastal Waterway and that the confluence created a funnel that directed the storm surges into the New Orleans Industrial Canal, where it overtopped the levees along MRGO and the Industrial Canal and eventually breached the levees and flooded into the neighborhoods that lie close to those three waterways, resulting in more than eleven hundred deaths in the Greater New Orleans area, destroying over twenty-four thousand homes, and rendering more than sixty-seven thousand residents of St. Bernard Parish and uncounted numbers in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans homeless, without possessions, and unemployed; and

Whereas, only three weeks later, on September 24, 2005, storm waters from Hurricane Rita surged up MRGO and caused additional flooding in St. Bernard Parish and the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, exacerbating the traumatic losses in that area; and

Whereas, since the two hurricanes caused such widespread damage in St. Bernard Parish and New Orleans, congress has declined to appropriate further funds for dredging MRGO; and

Whereas, some engineers have opined that the current base along MRGO was damaged to the point where it will not support a Category 3 levee in the future; and

Whereas, the cessation of dredging is not enough, the coastal wetlands and marshes which protect St. Bernard Parish and New Orleans must also be reestablished; and

Whereas, the Mississippi River is continually dredged to ensure safe passage for large

ocean-going vessels and that dredge material from the Mississippi River could be piped into the marshes of St. Bernard Parish to encourage and allow the regrowth of coastal wetlands and marshes which in turn would protect the citizens returning to St. Bernard Parish, the Lower Ninth Ward, and New Orleans East; and

Whereas, the United States Army Corps of Engineers has stated that it has no authorization from congress to close the waterway or to make any attempt to return the coastal wetlands and marshes to their pre-waterway status or even to fill the waterway to allow for the development of marshes and wetlands; and

Whereas, as the only entity which can authorize the waterway to be closed and which can enable the reestablishment of our essential coastal wetlands, the United States Congress must come to the aid of the citizens of Louisiana, particularly those of St. Bernard Parish and New Orleans by authorizing the immediate closure of MRGO and the reestablishment of coastal wetlands and marshes in the area around Lake Borgne and throughout St. Bernard Parish and New Orleans East; and

Whereas, it is the responsibility of the Louisiana congressional delegation to file the necessary legislation to accomplish the immediate closure of MRGO and the return of the essential coastal wetlands and marshes to St. Bernard Parish: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to immediately close MRGO and return the area to essential coastal wetlands and marshes and to memorialize the Louisiana congressional delegation to file the necessary legislation to accomplish this closure; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-267. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to taking such actions as are necessary to close the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 32

Whereas, Louisiana is losing its valuable coastal wetlands at an alarming rate; and

Whereas, Louisiana has initiated an aggressive program to reduce the rate of wetlands loss; and

Whereas, the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet was six hundred feet wide and thirty-six feet deep when it first opened for operation in 1968, but it now exceeds two thousand feet in width in some areas due to severe bank line erosion; and

Whereas, the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet has caused enormous wetland losses since its construction, including the loss of over eighteen thousand acres of wetlands since 1968; and

Whereas, the dredging of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and the failure of the United States Army Corps of Engineers to construct tidal surge barriers or to repair previous environmental damage caused by the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet is inconsistent with the intent of the Breaux Act and the Coastal 2050 plan; and

Whereas, over the last five years the number of vessels that use the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet has decreased from six hundred fifty-seven vessels to three hundred four vessels per year; and

Whereas, the cost of the annual dredging of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet continues to rise and currently the yearly cost is twenty-two million dollars; and

Whereas, fears about the impact of the loss of coastal wetlands and coastal marsh proved true in an extremely dramatic fashion on August 29, 2005, when Hurricane Katrina washed ashore on Louisiana's coast with a tidal surge well in excess of twenty feet; and

Whereas, there is a growing consensus that the flooding that occurred in St. Bernard Parish, New Orleans East, and the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans was a result of storm surge that flowed up the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet to the point where it converges with the Intracoastal Waterway and that the confluence created a funnel that directed the storm surges into the New Orleans Industrial Canal, where it overtopped the levees along the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and the Industrial Canal and eventually breached the levees and flooded into the neighborhoods that lie close to those three waterways, resulting in a yet uncounted number of deaths and rendering sixty-seven thousand residents of St. Bernard Parish and uncounted numbers in New Orleans East and the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans homeless, without possessions, and unemployed; and

Whereas, since the passage of Hurricane Katrina, the United States Congress has delayed the approval of funding for dredging the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet to the depth maintained prior to the passage of the storm, and there appears to be no movement in the congress to provide further funds for such dredging: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to close the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-268. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to taking immediate action to provide federal financial assistance to aid Louisiana's recovery following the devastation caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, to expeditiously complete the needed repair to the levee system in the greater New Orleans area, to provide for the prompt construction of hurricane and tidal water protection for south Louisiana, and to provide assistance with coastal restoration and marsh management; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

Whereas, in August and September 2005, Louisiana was decimated by multiple hurricanes striking the state—hurricanes Katrina and Rita—a combination of natural disasters of unprecedented proportions in American history, a burden no state has ever had to bear, including but not limited to loss of life, livelihoods, and homes, a negative impact on the state's economy and the earning power of the state's citizens and businesses in countless ways, destruction and damage to public buildings and other public works, damage to its levee system and the coastal wetlands and coastline; and

Whereas, during the devastation wreaked by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, certain forces of the Louisiana National Guard were not available to provide assistance at home due to their deployment to Iraq, in which call to arms Louisiana has suffered one of the highest casualty rates in the nation

while its troops proudly serve their state and their country; and

Whereas, the citizens, businesses, communities, schools, and governments of Louisiana have suffered tremendous loss, as reflected in an economic downturn which has affected the state fisc such that the state was faced with nearly a one billion dollar operating deficit; and

Whereas, the ramifications of these events continue to affect every citizen of the state as the destruction and continuing interruption of business, industry, and infrastructure in these areas has severely reduced the state's revenue stream by over one-third; and

Whereas, the interruption of essential public services, particularly in the areas of health care, education, and infrastructure, has profoundly affected the quality of life in the state; and

Whereas, the state's Revenue Estimating Conference has projected next fiscal year's revenue forecast to show a deficit of nine hundred seventy million dollars, requiring massive budget reductions to comply with the state constitution that requires a balanced budget; and

Whereas, the coastal zone of Louisiana is of vital importance to the nation in oil and gas production and fisheries production; and

Whereas, prior to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the state of Louisiana accounted for thirty percent of the commercial fisheries production of the lower forty-eight states, and ranked second in the nation for recreational harvest of saltwater fish; and

Whereas, prior to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Louisiana produced more than 80% of the nation's offshore oil and gas supply and provided billions of dollars each year to the federal treasury, while subjecting the Louisiana coastline to damaging and long-term impacts from these activities; and

Whereas, the communities in south Louisiana that support these industries are subject to potential flooding from tropical storms and hurricanes; and

Whereas, the destruction of communities and industries in south Louisiana by hurricanes Katrina and Rita demonstrated the critical need for prompt action to provide tidal protection in south Louisiana; and

Whereas, through executive order and legislative action, Louisiana has made a coordinated effort to balance its budget by reductions in the amount of approximately six hundred million dollars; by withdrawing one hundred fifty-four million dollars from the state's "Rainy Day" fund; and by depositing the 2004 Fiscal Year surplus of two hundred fifty million dollars into the "Rainy Day" fund, thereby enabling the movement of one hundred eighty-nine million dollars to the State General Fund for budget reduction purposes; and

Whereas, the governor has issued an executive order directing a spending freeze in the executive branch of state government, which remains in effect; and

Whereas, the Louisiana Recovery Authority has been established as the state entity to recommend policy, planning, and resource allocation affecting programs and services for the recovery; and

Whereas, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority has been created as the single state agency to provide aggressive state leadership, direction, and consonance in the development and implementation of policies, plans, and programs to achieve comprehensive coastal protection, including the encouragement of multiple uses of the coastal zone and to achieve a proper balance between development and conservation, the restoration, creation, and nourishment of renewable coastal resources, including but not limited to coastal wetlands and barrier

shorelines or reefs, through the construction and management of coastal wetlands enhancement projects, marsh management projects or plans, and to provide direction and development of the state's comprehensive master coastal protection plan, working in conjunction with state agencies, political subdivisions, including levee districts, and federal agencies; representing the state's position in policy implementation relative to the protection, conservation, and restoration of the coastal area of the state; and providing oversight of coastal restoration and hurricane protection projects and programs; and

Whereas, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, in response to communications from the Louisiana congressional delegation and in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act of 2006, has been authorized and empowered to carry out any and all functions necessary to serve as the single entity responsible to act as the local sponsor for construction, operation and maintenance of all of the hurricane, storm damage reduction and flood control projects in areas under its jurisdiction, including the greater New Orleans and southeast Louisiana area; and

Whereas, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is empowered to enter into contracts with the federal government or any federal agency or any political subdivision of the state or private individual for the construction, operation, or maintenance of any coastal restoration, hurricane, storm damage reduction, or flood control project and to this end, may contract for the acceptance of any grant of money upon the terms and conditions, including any requirement of matching the grants in whole or part, which may be necessary; and

Whereas, the Legislature of Louisiana has enacted legislation which, upon approval by the voters of this state, will consolidate certain levee districts and parishes into regional flood protection authorities to govern levee districts included in the authority and to establish on its own behalf or for the areas or the levee districts under its authority adequate drainage, flood control, and water resources development, including but not limited to the planning, maintenance, operation, and construction of reservoirs, diversion canals, gravity and pump drainage systems, erosion control measures, marsh management, coastal restoration, and other flood control works as such activities, facilities, and improvements relate to tidalwater flooding, hurricane protection, and saltwater intrusion; and

Whereas, the state, with its limited and severely impacted resources, has taken these, and numerous other, proactive steps toward recovery and addressing the needs of the state's citizens and communities; however, additional, immediate, and continuing federal assistance is needed; and

Whereas, in a time of great and unprecedented tragedy, a state that has given so much to the rest of our country is in dire need of the continuing and focused assistance and support of our nation, through its federal government, for the full recovery of Louisiana's citizens and infrastructure: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to take immediate action to provide federal financial assistance to aid Louisiana's recovery following the devastation caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, to expeditiously complete the needed repair to the levee system in the greater New Orleans area, to provide for the prompt construction

of hurricane and tidal water protection for south Louisiana, and to provide assistance with coastal restoration and marsh management; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-269. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to taking such actions as are necessary to provide funding for Louisiana's indigent defense system and to amend the Stafford Act or any other appropriate legislation to permit funding for Louisiana's indigent defense system; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25

Whereas, during this time of statewide emergency due to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, public funding for indigent defender services have become inadequate; and

Whereas, the state's indigent defender system is in urgent need of funding assistance which is beyond the current capacity of state and local government; and

Whereas, hurricanes Katrina and Rita have caused mass disruption in the criminal justice system throughout the state and the closing of some courts due to storm damage; and

Whereas, there has been a need for redirection of resources to more critical life-threatening areas; and

Whereas, the dislocation of, and in many cases the relocation of, judicial employees and attorneys has put an undue hardship on the indigent defender system; and

Whereas, there is a buildup in the number of detained persons charged with offenses for which there is a constitutional requirement for legal representation; and

Whereas, there is a strain on state and local funding as the need in critical areas of public service has increased and the revenue has dramatically decreased; and

Whereas, it is the intent of the Congress, by the Stafford Act (42 USC 5121, et seq.), to provide an orderly and continuing means of assistance by the federal government to state and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities to alleviate the suffering and damage which result from such disasters; and

Whereas, the Legislature of Louisiana does urge Congress to amend the Stafford Act or any other appropriate legislation to permit funding for Louisiana's indigent defense system; and

Whereas, the Legislature of Louisiana created the Louisiana Task Force on Indigent Defense Services in 2003 to study the system in Louisiana of providing legal representation to indigent persons who are charged with violations of criminal laws and the study is ongoing; and

Whereas, the 2006 fiscal year estimate for Louisiana indigent defense services is fifty-five million dollars; and

Whereas, any other federal funds that can be made available to assist the Louisiana indigent defense system are greatly needed: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are necessary to provide funding for indigent defendants and to amend the Stafford Act or any other appropriate legislation to permit funding for Louisiana's indigent defense system; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the

United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-270. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to urging and requesting the United States Army Corps of Engineers to provide a listing of all Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita related projects, including specific details including the type of work, the name of the contractor, and the total price of the contract; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

Whereas, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck the state of Louisiana causing severe flooding and damage to the southern part of the state that has threatened the safety and security of the citizens of the affected areas of the state of Louisiana; and

Whereas, the destruction caused by these devastating storms damaged public works, such as levees, bridges, and highways, and spread debris over a wide area of the southern part of the state; and

Whereas, the United States Army Corps of Engineers has control over a great percentage of the contracts to repair levees, remove debris, and transportation of trailers and other important activities vital to the restoration and revitalization of the affected areas of Louisiana; and

Whereas, there have been many complaints about sluggish progress and the exorbitant cost of the work contracted under the United States Army Corps of Engineers, which is contrasted with the timely and frugal efforts of many local governments which chose to utilize other methods to handle hurricane-related work; and

Whereas, the magnitude of the devastation requires a cooperative effort between the governments of the affected states, local governments, and the federal government; and

Whereas, we live in an open society in which our governments allow citizens to have access to government information, as evidenced by the federal Freedom of Information Act and the Louisiana Public Records Law; and

Whereas, in order to completely fulfill our joint responsibility to the people of Louisiana to manage state and federal financial resources wisely and show that state and federal public servants are performing up to standard and according to the public interest, the corps should provide to the Legislature of Louisiana a listing of the contracts awarded by the Army Corps of Engineers; and

Whereas, this listing shall, at a minimum, include the type of work required by each contract, the name of each contractor and all subcontractors, the principal place of business of each contractor and subcontractor, the total cost of each contract, the separate price paid to each contractor and subcontractor under each contract, and the nature of the work performed by each contractor and subcontractor: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the United States Army Corps of Engineers to provide a detailed and comprehensive listing of all contracts awarded by the corps as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, including all of the aforementioned requested detailed information; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana congressional delegation to aid in this request by all means necessary, including Freedom of Information Act requests on behalf of the citizens of their districts; and be it further

Resolved, That a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Lieutenant General Carl A. Strock, the Commander and Chief of Engineers of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the Freedom of Information Act Program Manager for the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Mr. Richard Frank, and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-271. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to authorizing the prompt construction of hurricane and tidal water protection for southwest Louisiana; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

Whereas, the southwest coastal zone of Louisiana is of vital importance to the nation in oil and gas production and fisheries production; and

Whereas, prior to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the state of Louisiana accounted for 30% of the commercial fisheries production of the lower 48 states, and ranked second in the nation for recreational harvest of salt-water fish; and

Whereas, prior to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Louisiana produced more than 80% of the nation's offshore oil and gas supply and provided billions of dollars each year to the Federal treasury, while subjecting the southwest Louisiana coastline to damaging and long-term impacts from these activities; and

Whereas, the communities in southwest Louisiana that support these industries are subject to potential flooding from tropical storms and hurricanes; and

Whereas, by causing total destruction of communities and industries, Hurricane Rita demonstrated the critical need for prompt action to provide tidal protection in southwest Louisiana; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to authorize the prompt construction of hurricane and tidal water protection for southwest Louisiana; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-272. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to amending the Stafford Act to permit funds to be used for permanent housing in the hurricane impacted areas of Louisiana; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Whereas, it would be economically beneficial to Louisiana to amend restrictions on permanent housing contained in Section 408 of the Stafford Act for the catastrophically impacted hurricane areas in Louisiana; and

Whereas, Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita struck the state of Louisiana causing severe flooding and damage to the southern region of the state adversely affecting the economy of our state as well as increasing the cost of supplies and services necessary to rebuild in the impacted areas thereby causing a dangerously regressive effect upon Louisiana and its citizens; and

Whereas, the flooding and damage of these storms has had a detrimental effect upon the availability of jobs, temporary housing, and permanent homes for many of our residents; and

Whereas, the effect of these storms has had a direct impact on many Louisianians ability to obtain any type of housing; and

Whereas, the Stafford Act provides an orderly means of assistance by the federal gov-

ernment to the state and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities to alleviate the individual suffering and damage caused by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, but it also restricts the amount of assistance and types of housing assistance available to those most in need of assistance: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the President and the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to amend the Stafford Act to allow funds to be used for permanent housing in the areas devastated and catastrophically impacted in Louisiana; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the President of the United States, the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-273. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to taking such actions as are necessary to allow a five hundred dollar federal tax deduction for people who housed evacuees rent free for at least sixty continuous days as a result of Hurricane Rita; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

Whereas, the federal government altered the federal tax code to assist individuals who suffered losses as a result of Hurricane Katrina and authorized incentives for individuals and companies to engage in charitable acts to benefit those affected by Hurricane Katrina, particularly, for offering rent-free housing to evacuees; and

Whereas, the federal government has not offered the same incentives to taxpayers who housed evacuees for Hurricane Rita; and

Whereas, Hurricane Rita evacuees were as equally impacted as Hurricane Katrina evacuees and are in need of the same benefits: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to allow a five hundred dollar federal tax deduction for persons who provided rent-free housing for at least sixty continuous days as a result of Hurricane Rita; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-274. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to the opposition of the State Modernization and Regulatory Transparency (SMART) Act; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 162

Whereas, Traditionally, the United States insurance industry has been regulated by individual states. Under the McCarran-Ferguson Act of 1945, state legislatures are the proper governmental entity to determine public policy on insurance issues. State legislatures are more responsive to the needs of their constituents and are more knowledgeable regarding the market conditions that exist in their states and regarding the need for unique insurance products and regulation to meet their specific market demands; and

Whereas, State legislatures and such organizations as the National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL), the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL),

and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) recognize that in certain states marketplace difficulties have created regulatory hurdles or delayed speed-to-market processing of insurance products. To solve these problems, state legislatures, NCOIL, NCSL, and NAIC continue to address uniformity issues among states through the adoption of model laws that address market conduct, product approval, agent licensing, and rate deregulation; and

Whereas, Many state governments derive general revenue dollars from the regulation of the insurance industry. In Michigan, the insurance industry paid more than \$241 million in state premium taxes in 2004; and

Whereas, The federal State Modernization and Regulatory Transparency (SMART) Act would create mandatory federal insurance standards preempting state law and undermining state sovereignty. By federalizing insurance regulation, this legislation would threaten the power of state legislatures, governors, insurance commissioners, and attorneys general to oversee, regulate, and investigate the insurance industry, impairing, eroding, and/or limiting their ability to protect the interests of their constituents: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the United States Congress to oppose the State Modernization and Regulatory Transparency (SMART) Act; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the United States House of Representatives Committee on Financial Services, the members of the United States Senate Committee on Finance, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-275. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Ohio relative to the Darfur genocide; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19

Whereas, In February 2003, the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and Justice Equality Movement (JEM) from the Darfur region of Sudan clashed with the Janjaweed militia, a group supported by the government of Sudan, in an attempt to oppose the region's extreme political and economic marginalization. Since that time, tens of thousands of civilians have been killed and more than two million civilians have been made internally displaced peoples by the two warring factions. Furthermore, approximately two hundred thousand Darfur refugees have fled across the border to Chad; and

Whereas, On July 22, 2004, the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate declared that the atrocities occurring in Darfur are genocide; and

Whereas, On September 9, 2004, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell stated before the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, "When we reviewed the evidence compiled by our team, along with other information available to the State Department, we concluded that genocide has been committed in Darfur and that the Government of Sudan and the (Janjaweed) bear responsibility—and genocide may still be occurring"; and

Whereas, President George W. Bush, in an address before the United Nations General Assembly on September 21, 2004, stated, "At this hour, the world is witnessing terrible suffering and horrible crimes in the Darfur region of Sudan, crimes my government has concluded are genocide"; and

Whereas, As a stabilizing force, the United States has an obligation to promote peace in the region and to work with other foreign governments to end the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the 126th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, wish to focus attention on the killing of tens of thousands of civilians at the hands of the armed belligerents; and be it further

Resolved, That we, the members of the 126th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, encourage the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States to continue supporting the humanitarian efforts of international aid groups to relieve the suffering of those who have been affected by the genocide occurring in the Darfur region of Sudan, to protect the workers of those aid groups, to encourage foreign governments to provide water, food, shelter, and medical care to those suffering in Darfur, and to lead multilateral efforts to bring those responsible for the egregious human rights violations to justice; and be it further

Resolved, That we, the members of the 126th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, encourage Ohio companies and institutions, multinational corporations operating in Ohio, and agencies and political subdivisions of the state to divest themselves of interests in any companies that conduct business in Sudan; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media of Ohio.

POM-276. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to amending the No Child Left Behind Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30

Whereas, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires that paraprofessionals who are employed in Title I schools meet high standards of qualification and requires that students who need the most help receive instructional support only from qualified paraprofessionals; and

Whereas, for the purposes of No Child Left Behind, a paraprofessional is defined as a school employee who provides instructional support in a program supported with federal funds pursuant to Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and

Whereas, this definition includes a paraprofessional who provides instructional support in any manner as follows:

- (1) Provides one-on-one tutoring if such tutoring is scheduled at a time when a student would not otherwise receive instruction from a teacher;
- (2) Assists with classroom management such as organizing instructional and other materials;
- (3) Provides instructional assistance in a computer laboratory;
- (4) Conducts parental involvement activities;
- (5) Provides support in a library or media center;
- (6) Acts as a translator; and
- (7) Provides instructional support services under the direct supervision of a teacher; and

Whereas, in compliance with the requirements of No Child Left Behind, Louisiana has developed different pathways for para-

professionals who are employed in Title I schools to choose from in order to meet the definition of "highly qualified"; and

Whereas, these choices include taking forty-eight semester hours of relevant course work or taking and passing a paraprofessional academic assessment instrument; and

Whereas, these choices and the requirements of No Child Left Behind do not take into consideration the fact that some of these paraprofessionals were employed in public school systems prior to the enactment of No Child Left Behind and have many years of experience serving in such capacity; and

Whereas, there are concerns among many about the financial burden that the requirements of No Child Left Behind place upon paraprofessionals who receive minimal salaries and cannot afford the college courses, test preparation, or test costs; and

Whereas, although many local school systems in Louisiana are assisting paraprofessionals in paying these costs, there are other issues involved that make these requirements extremely difficult, if not impossible, for some paraprofessionals to meet—especially those who work in rural areas of the state and may not have access to postsecondary education; and

Whereas, these burdens have resulted in the loss of many paraprofessionals from the public schools in this state who have been forced to seek other types of employment; and

Whereas, paraprofessionals employed in Title I schools play a very important role in improving student achievement and many of them have been employed in such schools for a number of years and their experience and expertise in their jobs is a tremendous asset to public education; and

Whereas, because the legislature values these employees for the crucial role they play in public education and wants to keep them in our public schools where they can continue to make a difference in students' lives, it is imperative that all steps necessary be taken to remove these burdens which are forcing many of the more experienced and qualified paraprofessionals to leave the public education system: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to amend the No Child Left Behind Act to provide that paraprofessionals who were employed in Title I schools prior to the enactment of the No Child Left Behind Act shall be deemed to have met the definition of "highly qualified" for purposes of such legislation due to such employment and the experience gained as a result of such employment; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-277. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan relative to enacting legislation reauthorizing the Ryan White Care Act to provide comprehensive care for the neediest victims of HIV/AIDS; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 95

Whereas, The numbers of children, youth, and particularly young women who are infected with HIV or have developed AIDS are increasing. In the United States, more than 9,000 children under the age of thirteen are living with HIV/AIDS. Of the nearly 40,000 Americans infected every year with HIV, nearly fifteen percent are under twenty-five

years of age. Among the newly infected in the age group of thirteen to nineteen, fifty-eight percent are women; and

Whereas, Children and young people infected with HIV and living with AIDS have unique needs for specialized medical services and psychosocial support. Programs funded under the Ryan White CARE Act successfully deliver family-centered, coordinated health care and support services for women, children, youth and families. These programs have played a significant role in reducing the number of mother-to-child HIV infections from 2,000 to fewer than 200 per year; and

Whereas, Recent patterns in the United States show that HIV/AIDS increasingly affects African Americans, Latinos, and other racial and ethnic minorities. In 2004, minorities accounted for almost three-fourths of new cases of AIDS in an HIV/AIDS surveillance report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Of these newly identified AIDS patients, 48 percent were African Americans and 21 percent were Latinos. The rate also continued to rise among women, who accounted for 27 percent of new AIDS cases in 2004. Of these women newly diagnosed with AIDS, 67 percent were African Americans and 15 percent were Latinas; and

Whereas, In his State of the Union address, President George W. Bush supported reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act to encourage prevention of HIV/AIDS and provide care and treatment for the neediest HIV/AIDS victims. The Secretary of Health and Human Services proposed five guiding principles to reauthorize the Act. First, serve the neediest victims of HIV/AIDS. Second, focus on delivering life-saving and life-extending services. Third, increase prevention efforts through more routine testing. Fourth, increase the accountability of states and organizations receiving federal funds. Fifth, give the federal government flexibility to reallocate unspent funds. By following these principles, care will be delivered to the neediest patients that will help them live longer and healthier lives: now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation reauthorizing the Ryan White CARE Act; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-278. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands relative to amending 33 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 160, to exempt the Virgin Islands from the passenger information reporting requirements that went into effect in 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. SNOWE for the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Eric M. Thorson, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration.

By Mr. SPECTER for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Donald J. DeGabrielle, Jr., of Texas, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas for the term of four years.

John Charles Richter, of Oklahoma, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma for the term of four years.