



Introduced Version

**HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the governor to establish a water shortage permanent task force.

Leuck

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on

19991647

1999

HC 1014/DI 2+



HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the governor to establish a water shortage permanent task force.

Whereas, In response to the 1988 Indiana drought, the State of Indiana prepared a water shortage plan in 1994;

Whereas, The 1994 water shortage plan establishes certain guiding principles and lists the selections of possible actions that could be taken as a drastic water shortage is determined possible, is determined probable, and is occurring;

Whereas, The 1994 water shortage plan includes temporary voluntary conservation measures and leaves to the Indiana department of natural resources and to a to-be-established water shortage permanent task force the actual decisions of how to communicate these options or how to enforce mandatory reductions in use;

Whereas, The water shortage permanent task force that the 1994 water shortage plan recommended be established to decide when and how voluntary conservation measures should be implemented has never been established;

Whereas, Surface water and ground water policies are interrelated and any comprehensive policy must take into account the difference between consumptive and nonconsumptive uses of each. For instance, once-through cooling water does not change the quantity of water flow in the stream compared to withdrawal for consumptive uses



such as irradiation or public water supply use;

Whereas, Water quality is also a component of a water quantity policy so that a number of laws and regulations about water quality and land use must be considered;

Whereas, When a serious weather condition causes a serious water shortage to occur again, the state and local governments must implement strong policies to decide priorities such as: (1) lives of aquatic biota over watering lawns and washing cars; and (2) safe drinking water, air conditioning, elevators, livestock water, and adequate fire suppression water over lives of fish; and these types of decisions need to be thought through in advance of being proposed for implementation;

Whereas, Based on historical records, a period of water shortage much greater than the 1988 drought has occurred in the decades prior to 1988 and is highly likely in the decades ahead;

Whereas, There are other water shortage possibilities besides drought (such as collapse of domestic water distribution infrastructure and terrorist activity) that the 1994 water shortage plan does not address; and

Whereas, The minimum water flow desired for habitat mentioned in the 1994 water shortage plan is a policy issue needing discussion, decision, and resource allocation to implement: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,
the Senate concurring:*

- 1 SECTION 1. That the governor is urged to establish a water
2 shortage permanent task force for the following purposes:
3 (1) Implement the 1994 water shortage plan when conditions
4 warrant.
5 (2) Update, expand, and revise the 1994 water shortage plan.
6 (3) Complete the following tasks:
7 (A) Establish procedures to monitor, assess, and inform the



- 1 public about the status of surface water shortage for all uses in
 2 all watersheds, especially shortage due to drought.
 3 (B) Recommend a state policy on "desired" baseline flow
 4 maintenance for in-stream use, including habitat that includes
 5 an equitable mechanism for achieving and maintaining flows
 6 so that flows do not fall below "natural" baseline flows.
 7 (C) Recommend a state policy for promoting water
 8 conservation and establishing regulatory and capital
 9 infrastructure as useful permanent tools to complement the
 10 temporary measures of the water shortage plan to address
 11 critical water shortage episodes, including a proposal to the
 12 Indiana utility regulatory commission for a rate structure
 13 option to favor conservation of water use while recovering
 14 cost-of-service.
 15 (D) Prepare a biennial report on the status of current surface
 16 and ground water withdrawals in all Indiana watersheds,
 17 noting areas of current or likely water shortage challenges
 18 given current usage trends and current knowledge of
 19 hydrology.
 20 (E) Describe past and current surface water allocation conflicts
 21 and how past conflicts have been resolved.
 22 (4) By July 2000, demonstrate to the water resources study
 23 commission of the general assembly how the water shortage task
 24 force has completed the tasks listed in subdivision (3).

25 SECTION 2. That the governor is urged to provide that members of
 26 the water shortage permanent task force have staggered four (4) year
 27 terms and represent the following:

- 28 (1) All key consumptive water withdrawal users such as the
 29 following:
 30 (A) Private public water supply utilities.
 31 (B) Municipal public water supply utilities.
 32 (C) Agriculture.
 33 (2) Nonconsumptive water users such as the following:
 34 (A) Steam electric generating utility companies.
 35 (B) Municipal sewage treatment systems.
 36 (3) Academic experts in aquatic habitat.
 37 (4) Municipalities.
 38 (5) Key stakeholders such as the following:
 39 (A) Environmentalists speaking for habitat and other in-stream
 40 uses.
 41 (B) Consumer advocates.
 42 (C) Economic development advocates.
 43 (D) Members of the general public.

44 SECTION 3. That the governor is urged to provide that:

- 45 (1) the director of the Indiana department of natural resources is
 46 the chair of the water shortage permanent task force; and
 47 (2) the Indiana department of natural resources must provide staff



1 support for the water shortage permanent task force.
2 SECTION 4. That the governor is urged to establish a government
3 advisory panel to the water shortage permanent task force composed of
4 representatives of the following:
5 (1) United States geological survey.
6 (2) Indiana department of environmental management.
7 (3) Indiana department of natural resources.
8 (4) State emergency management agency.
9 (5) Office of the commissioner of agriculture.
10 (6) Indiana utility regulatory commission.
11 (7) Indiana department of health.
12 SECTION 5. That the governor is urged to initially fund the water
13 shortage permanent task force from available dedicated funds.

