

**HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION regarding Indiana
Water Shortage Policy.

Thompson

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



Introduced

First Regular Session 113th General Assembly (2003)

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION regarding Indiana Water Shortage Policy.

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 conservation measures and leaves to the Indiana department of natural resources and to a to-be-established water shortage task force the actual decisions of how to communicate these options or how to enforce mandatory reductions in use;

Whereas, the water shortage 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 (e.g. once-through cooling water) uses of



each;

Whereas, when a weather condition cause a serious water shortage to occur again, the state and local government must implement strong policies to decide priorities among factors such as public health needs, aquatic, biota, irrigation, industrial use and electricity production, 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 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;

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. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources
2 shall develop a work plan to update, expand, and revise the
3 1994 water shortage plan with involvement of representatives
4 of all affected parties to include a low flow/drought priority
5 use schedule.

6 SECTION 2. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources
7 will a recommended work plan to the Water Resources Study
8 Committee August 1, 2003.

9 SECTION 3. That the Principal Clerk of the House of



- 1 Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this
- 2 resolution to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

