

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY SENATOR JOHNS AND REPRESENTATIVES GLOVER, MARCELLE AND
NORTON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create the Riverboat Economic Development and Gaming Task Force to study current law and existing rules and regulations regarding riverboat gaming.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Riverboat Economic Development and Gaming Control Act was enacted in 1991; and

WHEREAS, riverboat casinos have been operating in Louisiana for more than a decade and much of the controlling laws and regulations have never been updated to reflect changes in the market and gaming environment; and

WHEREAS, since 2000, riverboat gaming has generated in excess of \$27 billion in revenue and nearly \$6 billion in fees for state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, riverboat gaming acts as an economic generator providing employment to more than 20,000 employees and maintains a payroll in excess of \$348 million; and

WHEREAS, riverboat gaming has provided in excess of \$100 million to minority and female owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, riverboat casinos invested more than \$45 million in capital improvements in fiscal years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015; and

WHEREAS, riverboat gaming is an established and highly regulated industry that provides \$406 million to the state in franchise fees and more than \$105 million to local government through property taxes and local fees; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative a representative group of experts be convened to conduct a thorough analysis of the riverboat gaming regulatory environment to ensure Louisiana remains competitive in the finite entertainment and tourist market.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Riverboat Economic Development and Gaming Task Force to study current law and existing rules and regulations regarding riverboat gaming, to conduct public meetings at a date, time, and location to be determined by the chairman, and to hear testimony,

comments, and input of interested parties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be chaired by the chairman of the Louisiana Gaming Control Board and shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) The chairman of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice.
- (2) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary B.
- (3) The president of the Senate or his designee.
- (4) The speaker of the House of Representatives or his designee.
- (5) The governor or his designee.
- (6) The superintendent of the Louisiana State Police or his designee.
- (7) The secretary of Louisiana Department of Economic Development or his designee.
- (8) The attorney general or his designee.
- (9) The lieutenant governor or his designee.
- (10) A representative of the riverboat gaming industry as designated by the governor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at the conclusion of its meetings, the task force shall prepare a written report to be presented to the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice and the Senate Committee on Judiciary B no later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2018 Regular Session that shall include, but not be limited to, recommendations on the following:

- (1) Changes to current law or rules and regulations which would generate and promote continued economic development by riverboat gaming licensees.
- (2) Changes to current law or rules and regulations which would provide for greater safety for visitors and employees of riverboat casinos.
- (3) Changes to current law or rules and regulations which would encourage increased capital reinvestment by riverboat gaming licensees.
- (4) Changes to current law or rules and regulations which would improve and enhance the regulation of riverboat gaming licensees.
- (5) Changes to current law or rules and regulation which would make Louisiana riverboat casinos more competitive with gaming enterprises in nearby jurisdictions.
- (6) Any other issues relevant to the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman of the Louisiana Gaming Control Board shall coordinate with the attorney general and the superintendent of the Louisiana State Police in the assignment of staff as may be necessary to assist the task force in performing its duties and preparing its report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary B, the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the governor, the lieutenant governor, the attorney general, the superintendent of the Louisiana State Police, and the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Economic Development.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES