

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 63

BY REPRESENTATIVES STOKES, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BAGNERIS, CHANEY, COX, DAVIS, EDMONDS, FALCONER, GAROFALO, HOFFMANN, HORTON, IVEY, JENKINS, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MARCELLE, MOORE, JAY MORRIS, SMITH, THOMAS, AND WHITE AND SENATOR THOMPSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To authorize and request the governor's office of elderly affairs, the office of aging and adult services of the Louisiana Department of Health, the office of financial institutions, the Louisiana Bankers Association, and the legislative auditor, jointly, to study means by which this state can reduce the incidence of elder abuse and to report findings of the study to the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, the Senate Committee on Judiciary C, the legislative committees on health and welfare, and the Legislative Audit Advisory Council.

WHEREAS, in the United States, hundreds of thousands of adults over the age of sixty are abused, neglected, or financially exploited each year; collectively, these acts are referred to as elder abuse; and

WHEREAS, various laws encompassed by the Louisiana Criminal Code, R.S. 14:1 et seq., criminalize abandonment, battery, exploitation, extortion, isolation, and sexual abuse of the elderly; and

WHEREAS, the governor's office of elderly affairs provides a broad range of services for senior citizens through the Area Agencies on Aging of this state; and

WHEREAS, among the major duties of the governor's office of elderly affairs is the administration of the state's elderly protective services functions pursuant to the Adult Protective Services Act, R.S. 15:1501 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the office of aging and adult services of the Louisiana Department of Health is responsible for the programs and functions of the department related to the long-term care of the elderly and the protection and long-term care of persons with adult-onset disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the office of financial institutions and the Louisiana Bankers Association have considerable expertise in the tracking and monitoring of financial records and the vulnerability of elders to be the victims of financial exploitation; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana treasures its elders, as they are the living heritage of our families and our rich and wonderful culture; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the safety and well-being of our elders is a critical public policy priority of this state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby authorize and request the governor's office of elderly affairs, the office of aging and adult services of the Louisiana Department of Health, and the legislative auditor, jointly, to study means by which this state can reduce the incidence of elder abuse.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study requested in this Resolution, the governor's office of elderly affairs, the office of aging and adult services, and the legislative auditor shall engage, collaborate with, and obtain information and perspective from stakeholder groups as deemed necessary or appropriate by the executive director of the governor's office of elderly affairs and the assistant secretary of the office of aging and adult services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the parties who coordinate the study called for in this Resolution shall submit a written report of findings resulting from the study to the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, the Senate Committee on Judiciary C, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the Legislative Audit Advisory Council no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the governor's office of elderly affairs, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the commissioner of the office of financial institutions, the chief

executive officer of the Louisiana Bankers Association, the legislative auditor, and each member of the Legislative Audit Advisory Council.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE