

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROMERO AND SENATOR ABRAHAM

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To commend Bennett R. Lapoint, assistant district attorney of Jefferson Davis Parish, on his
3 retirement.

4 WHEREAS, Bennett R. Lapoint became the first member of his family to attend
5 college when he was accepted into McNeese State University; while at McNeese State
6 University, he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and graduated with
7 magna cum laude honors; after completing his undergraduate studies, he chose to continue
8 his education at the Louisiana State University School of Law and graduated with a Juris
9 Doctor degree in 1980; and

10 WHEREAS, upon earning his J.D. degree, Mr. Lapoint immediately returned to his
11 hometown of Lake Arthur, Louisiana, to practice law; in 1980, he was appointed to serve on
12 the Jefferson Davis Indigent Defender Board and ultimately served as chairman of the board
13 until January 1, 1991; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Lapoint continued his law practice until 1990, and in 1991, he was
15 appointed as a full-time assistant district attorney in the Thirty-first Judicial District by
16 Michael C. Cassidy, district attorney; Mr. Lapoint served as assistant district attorney until
17 January 31, 2020, and during his tenure, he also served as first assistant district attorney; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Lapoint's primary focus during his time as assistant district attorney
19 was the handling of narcotics cases, and he is recognized throughout the state of Louisiana
20 as a leading authority on search and seizure; he helped educate a number of prosecutors and
21 law enforcement officers on the laws related to narcotics cases; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Lapoint was also responsible for drug asset forfeiture cases,
2 including the largest narcotics seizure in Louisiana history, valued at \$3.4 million, which he
3 argued all the way to the United States Supreme Court; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Lapoint's service went beyond prosecution; he initiated the drug
5 intervention program in Jefferson Davis Parish which allows young, first time drug offenders
6 to obtain treatment in lieu of jail time for simple possession of narcotics; successful
7 completion of the intervention program allowed participants to avoid a felony conviction on
8 their records; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Lapoint recognized that addiction is an illness that requires
10 treatment rather than incarceration and he was very proud of the young men and women
11 who, through successful completion of the intervention program, were able regain control
12 of their lives; Bennett R. Lapoint has been a truly exemplary servant to the people of
13 Louisiana, and his work as assistant district attorney in the Thirty-first Judicial District is
14 undoubtedly deserving of recognition.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
16 commend Bennett R. Lapoint on the occasion of his retirement as assistant district attorney
17 of Jefferson Davis Parish; does hereby express most sincere appreciation for his efforts to
18 help reform communities afflicted by drug abuse; and does hereby extend hopes and wishes
19 for his continued good health and prosperity as he begins a new journey in retirement.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
21 Bennett R. Lapoint.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 38 Original

2020 Regular Session

Romero

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