2020 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 53

BY REPRESENTATIVE STAGNI

EXCEPTIONAL PERSONS: Requests a study concerning a voluntary registry of persons with autism and other developmental disabilities for use by law enforcement professionals

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services,
3	in collaboration with the office for citizens with developmental disabilities of the
4	Louisiana Department of Health, to conduct a study concerning the potential use of
5	the National Crime Information Center database for creating a voluntary registry of
6	persons with autism and other developmental disabilities for use by law enforcement
7	professionals and to report findings of the study to certain legislative committees.
8	WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana has a sincere concern for the health and
9	well-being of persons with disabilities and intends that these persons and their families be
10	afforded all opportunities for the best possible quality of life in this state; and
11	WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana supports our law enforcement agencies and
12	the brave men and women who dedicate their professional lives as law enforcement officers
13	to keeping our communities safe; and
14	WHEREAS, autism and other developmental disabilities are conditions that can
15	cause problem behaviors and commonly affect a person's ability to communicate, their
16	cognition, or both; and
17	WHEREAS, while performing their duties in protecting the public, law enforcement
18	professionals may unexpectedly encounter or be asked to locate persons with autism or other
19	developmental disabilities; and

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1 WHEREAS, with respect to such exceptional persons, best practices in law 2 enforcement include training on recognizing and understanding the behavior of those 3 persons, as well as on effective contact approaches that minimize risks to them and to 4 officers during law enforcement encounters; and 5 WHEREAS, Louisiana law, R.S. 40:2404.2(C), provides for training of law 6 enforcement officers on interacting with persons who have developmental disabilities; and 7 WHEREAS, a system that facilitates law enforcement professionals easily 8 ascertaining that a person has autism or a developmental disability would support greater 9 overall public safety; and 10 WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 84 of the 2019 Regular Session 11 requested the Louisiana Department of Health to study the feasibility of issuing a special 12 identification card to individuals with an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis; and 13 WHEREAS, the study that the Louisiana Department of Health produced in 14 accordance with that Resolution indicated it is not feasible for the department to issue such 15 identification cards because it has no processes currently in place within which that function 16 could be included; and 17 WHEREAS, the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) of the Federal Bureau 18 of Investigation is an electronic clearinghouse of data that nearly all criminal justice agencies 19 nationwide can access twenty-four hours per day, three hundred sixty-five days per year; and 20 WHEREAS, adding a category in the NCIC database for identifying persons as 21 having autism or other developmental disabilities could be an optimal solution to any 22 challenges that law enforcement agencies may face in interacting with this vulnerable 23 population. 24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 25 urge and request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services, 26 in collaboration with the office for citizens with developmental disabilities of the Louisiana 27 Department of Health, to conduct a study concerning the potential use of the National Crime 28 Information Center database for creating a voluntary registry of persons with autism and

29 other developmental disabilities for use by law enforcement professionals.

1	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections
2	shall submit findings from the study called for in this Resolution in the form of a written
3	report to the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, the Senate Committee
4	on Judiciary B, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on
5	Health and Welfare, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library on or before
6	February 1, 2021.
7	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
8	secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the secretary of the
9	Louisiana Department of Health.

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)]

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Requests the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services, in collaboration with the office for citizens with developmental disabilities of the La. Dept. of Health, to conduct a study concerning the potential use of the National Crime Information Center database for creating a voluntary registry of persons with autism and other developmental disabilities for use by law enforcement professionals.

Requires the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to submit findings from the study in a report to the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, the Senate Committee on Judiciary B, and the legislative committees on health and welfare on or before Feb. 21, 2021.