HLS 22RS-1179 REENGROSSED

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

JUDGES: Establishes a task force to study the funding and workload of judicial districts and circuits

| 1  | A RESOLUTION   |
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| 2  | To create the Judicial Structure Task Force to study the caseload data and the number of       |
| 3  | judges of each appellate court and district court in Louisiana, to determine changes           |
| 4  | necessary to the existing structure of the judiciary, to provide the most efficient use        |
| 5  | of judicial resources, and to report its findings and recommendations to the House             |
| 6  | Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Judiciary no later than                 |
| 7  | February 1, 2023.  |
| 8  | WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 143 of the 2011 Regular Session of                    |
| 9  | the Louisiana Legislature requested the supreme court to study the structure of the judiciary; |
| 10 | and  |
| 11 | WHEREAS, the National Center for State Courts developed a work point study to                  |
| 12 | assess the workload of district and appellate courts throughout the state; and                 |
| 13 | WHEREAS, an updated work point study is needed to accurately assess the structure              |
| 14 | and workload of the judiciary; and   |
| 15 | WHEREAS, the release of the detailed 2020 federal decennial census data on August              |
| 16 | 12, 2021, revealed serious population losses in some parts of the state and tremendous         |
| 17 | population growth in other parts of the state; and   |
| 18 | WHEREAS, as population shifts from some areas of this state to others, it would be             |
| 19 | prudent to examine the caseload data from each court in the state of Louisiana to determine    |
| 20 | if the judicial resources are being used in the most efficient manner possible; and            |
| 21 | WHEREAS, population and demographic changes in the state of Louisiana provide                  |
| 22 | a reassessment opportunity to determine if reallocation of judicial resources may be needed;   |
| 23 | and  |

1 WHEREAS, it is necessary to consider the case filing data, case weights, court 2 structure and finance, and the use of support personnel in this study; and 3 WHEREAS, it is also necessary to study the territorial boundaries and the 4 jurisdictional limits of each court. 5 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the 6 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish the Judicial Structure Task Force to study the caseload data and the number of judges of each appellate court and district court in 7 8 Louisiana, and to determine the changes necessary to the existing structure of the judiciary 9 and the most efficient use of judicial resources. 10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the 11 following members: 12 (1) Three members of the House Committee on Appropriations appointed by the 13 speaker of the House of Representatives. 14 Three members of the House Committee on Judiciary appointed by the (2) 15 speaker of the House of Representatives. 16 (3) The chief justice of the Supreme Court, or his designee. 17 The chair of the Louisiana Conference of Court of Appeals Judges, or his (4) 18 designee. 19 (5) A representative from the Louisiana District Judges Association. 20 Two members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate. (6) 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for purposes of this study, the task force shall 22 have all powers otherwise provided by law and by rules of the House of Representatives, as 23 well as all powers inherent in legislative committees, and that the legislative members shall 24 receive the per diem and mileage authorized by law and in accordance with the rules of the 25 member's house of the legislature. 26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a member of the House of Representatives on 27 the task force designated by the speaker of the House of Representatives shall serve as the 28 chairman of the task force and that the members of the task force shall select any other

officers it deems necessary from among its members at the first meeting of task force.

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman of the task force shall cause notice 2 of each meeting of the task force to be provided to the speaker of the House of 3 Representatives, the chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, and the chairman 4 of the House Committee on Judiciary. 5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature 6 of Louisiana further directs the task force to solicit input, information, data, 7 recommendations, and advice from the following persons, agencies, and organizations in 8 connection with the study directed by this Resolution: 9 (1) The Louisiana Supreme Court. 10 (2) The Louisiana District Judges Association. 11 The Louisiana Clerks of Court Association. (3) 12 The Louisiana District Attorneys Association. (4) 13 The Louisiana Public Defender Board. (5) 14 The Louisiana State Bar Association. (6) 15 **(7)** The Louisiana Association for Justice. 16 (8) The National Center for State Courts. 17 (9) Louisiana Association of Business & Industry. 18 (10)Any persons, agencies, entities, or stakeholders that the joint committee 19 deems necessary to fulfill its purposes. 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of 21 its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Appropriations and the House 22 Committee on Judiciary not later than February 1, 2023, and that such recommendations shall include the following: 23 24 (1) An updated work point study from the National Center for State Courts. 25 Data from the National Center for State Courts on district court work flow. (2) 26 The caseload data of each appellate court and district court in Louisiana. (3) 27 The number of judges in each appellate court and district court in Louisiana. (4) 28 A determination of any necessary changes to the existing structure of the (5) 29 judiciary. 30 A determination of the most efficient use of judicial resources. (6)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

- 2 chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, the chairman of the House Committee
- 3 on Judiciary, the chief justice of the supreme court, the chair of the Louisiana Conference
- 4 of Court of Appeals Judges, and the president of the Louisiana District Judges Association.
- 5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one print copy and one electronic copy of any
- 6 report produced pursuant to this Resolution shall be submitted to the David R. Poynter
- 7 Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

## **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)]

HR 30 Reengrossed

2022 Regular Session

Zeringue

Establishes the Judicial Structure Task Force to study the caseload data and the number of judges of each appellate court and district court, to determine the changes necessary to the existing structure of the judiciary and the most efficient use of judicial resources, and to report its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Judiciary no later than Feb. 1, 2023.

## Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs</u> to the <u>engrossed</u> resolution:

- 1. Add two members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate and make changes to provisions regarding per diem and mileage of members related thereto.
- 2. Specify that the members of the House on the task force are appointed by the speaker of the House.
- 3. Provide that the chairman is a member of the House designated by the speaker of the House and provide that the task force may select any other officers it deems necessary.