

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 147

BY SENATOR HEWITT

A RESOLUTION

To create the Task Force on Remote Operations of Public Entities.

WHEREAS, open public meetings are a cornerstone of government transparency;
and

WHEREAS, communication technology has advanced significantly since the
adoption of the Open Meetings Law; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally changed the nature of
communication and reinforced the need for flexibility and adaptation of best practices; and

WHEREAS, participation in virtual meetings presents unique challenges that require
comprehensive analysis; and

WHEREAS, a thoughtful, collaborative approach to developing a framework for the
improvement of conducting remote meetings will be of great public benefit.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
does hereby create and provide for the Task Force on Remote Operations of Public Entities
to study remote operations of public entities, and to propose recommendations, together with
specific proposals for legislation, by written report to the Senate and to the David R. Poynter
Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than
February 1, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in executing its duties, the task force should
consider proposing guidelines for new open meetings legislation and the steps necessary for
the implementation of new policies pertaining to participation in remote meetings of public
entities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following
members:

(1) The chairman of the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee, or his designee.

(2) The chairman of the House and Governmental Affairs Committee, or his designee, provided he notifies the chairman of the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee of his desire to serve as a member of the task force by August 1, 2022.

(3) A member with open meetings law expertise, appointed by the governor.

(4) A member with knowledge of information technology issues related to remote meetings, appointed by the commissioner of administration.

(5) The president of the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, or his designee.

(6) The executive director of the Louisiana Press Association, or his designee.

(7) A member of the disabled community, appointed by the executive director of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each appointing authority shall submit the name of the authority's appointee to the task force to the chairman of the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee no later than August 1, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force shall convene for its first meeting no later than September 1, 2022, at the call of the chairman of the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee, and at the first meeting, the members shall elect a chairman and other officers as the task force may deem appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the staffs of the Senate, legislative fiscal office, and legislative auditor's office shall provide staff support to the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on the date of the submission of its report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the House and Governmental Affairs Committee, the governor, the commissioner of administration, the executive director of the Louisiana Press Association, the president of the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, and the executive director of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE