

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 254

BY REPRESENTATIVE IVEY

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request each standing committee of the House of Representatives to study the provisions of the Constitution of Louisiana within the jurisdiction of the committee and to make recommendations regarding revisions to those provisions to the House of Representatives no later than March 15, 2023.

WHEREAS, it has been more than forty-seven years since the Constitution of Louisiana became effective at midnight on December 31, 1974, and during these years the document which constitutes the state's fundamental law has been amended some two hundred three times; and

WHEREAS, the need to address a number of key policy areas that require constitutional change has become apparent, including such matters as the state's tax structure and budgetary practices that hamper the state's economic growth and competitiveness as well as the quality of life of Louisiana residents; the prioritization of expenditures through the dedication of state revenues and the resulting inability of the legislature to allocate resources to other priorities, particularly for the needs of health care and higher education; the fiscal restraints on local governments that dramatically limit their authority to meet fiscal and budgetary demands; and other matters; and

WHEREAS, the constitution contains many provisions that prohibit or restrict the legislature in effectively addressing state and constituent needs, and also includes extensive provisions that are so detailed as to be statutory rather than constitutional in nature and, as a result, require further constitutional amendment when any change is needed; and

WHEREAS, a serious analysis of the state constitution is necessary to address the state's critical needs; to undertake an in-depth consideration of reform proposals; and to craft provisions that allow for flexibility and innovation in legislative solutions to problems of the present and the future, and the standing committees of the legislature are uniquely positioned to recognize issues and recommend appropriate and necessary revisions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request each standing committee of the House of Representatives to study the provisions of the Constitution of Louisiana within the jurisdiction of the committee, to report its activities regarding those provisions, and to include in such report its analysis of those provisions to the House of Representatives, no later than March 15, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that House of Representatives does hereby request each standing committee to specifically include in its report all of the following information:

(1) Identification of the provisions of the constitution within its purview that constitute fundamental law.

(2) Identification of language in the provisions of the constitution within its purview that is not considered fundamental law and that either from a best practice or comparative perspective is unusual for a constitution or is most commonly statutory in nature.

(3) Identification of language in the provisions of the constitution within its purview that is legally unnecessary, redundant, or obsolete.

(4) Identification of language in the provisions of the constitution within its purview that is transitional in nature and which should either be removed or updated.

(5) Identification of language in the provisions of the constitution within its purview that, from an organizational or structural perspective, should either be placed elsewhere in the constitution or reworded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives does hereby request the clerk of the House of Representatives to review and assign each provision of the Constitution of Louisiana to the appropriate standing committee of the House of Representatives no later than fifteen days after the adoption of this Resolution.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES