

2023 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY SENATORS KLEINPETER, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BERNARD, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, CORTEZ, DUPLESSIS, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, PEACOCK, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, STINE, TALBOT, TARVER, WHITE AND WOMACK

LAW ENFORCEMENT. Creates the Task Force on Safety for Law Enforcement Officers Involved in High Speed Vehicle Pursuits to study and review police officer training and protocols necessary to increase the safety of law enforcement officers and innocent bystanders.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create and provide for the Task Force on Safety for Law Enforcement Officers Involved
3 in High Speed Vehicle Pursuits.

4 WHEREAS, law enforcement professionals provide critical and necessary services
5 to motorists in one of the most dangerous work environments; and

6 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, motor
7 vehicle-related incidents are a leading cause of line-of-duty deaths for law enforcement
8 officers in the United States, evidenced by the fact that thirty-three percent of all line-of-duty
9 deaths between the years 2011 through 2020 were due to motor vehicle-related
10 incidents; and

11 WHEREAS, the risk of death to innocent bystanders and loss of property is greatly
12 enhanced when a law enforcement officer is required to engage in a high speed vehicle
13 pursuit to apprehend a dangerous criminal; and

14 WHEREAS, University of Washington researchers found that each year
15 approximately three hundred fatalities in the United States occur during police pursuits and
16 more than thirty percent of the fatalities were innocent bystanders who were not involved
17 in the pursuit; and

18 WHEREAS, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, local law

1 enforcement agencies provide approximately ninety percent of all automobile-related law
2 enforcement services to the public; and

3 WHEREAS, local law enforcement agencies face unique challenges in terms of
4 safety training due to limited funding and a limited pool of qualified candidates willing to
5 serve; and

6 WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes that the vast majority of law enforcement
7 officers are committed to working diligently to keep our roadways safe; and

8 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the public to find ways to increase safety
9 training and enhance protocols for law enforcement officers involved in high speed vehicle
10 pursuits in order to limit injuries and deaths of both officers and innocent people who were
11 not involved in the high speed pursuit.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
13 establish and provide for the Task Force on Safety for Law Enforcement Officers Involved
14 in High Speed Vehicle Pursuits to study and review police officer training and protocols for
15 safety when the officer is involved in a high speed vehicle pursuit.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall meet as necessary and shall
17 report its findings to the legislature, including submission of one printed copy and one
18 electronic copy thereof to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library, not later than
19 February 15, 2024, and shall terminate upon the date of submission of such report or
20 February 15, 2024, whichever occurs first.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall include consideration of
22 available low cost or no cost training for local law enforcement agencies, available sources
23 of funds to assist local law enforcement agencies with the costs of providing necessary
24 training and effective protocols, possible enhancement of criminal penalties for perpetrators
25 who instigate high speed vehicle pursuits with law enforcement, and such other related
26 topics as is determined relevant by the chairperson or by the task force.

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

29 (1) One senator appointed by the president of the Senate who shall serve as the
30 chairperson.

1 (2) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the
2 House of Representatives.

3 (3) One employee of the Louisiana State Police, office of internal affairs, appointed
4 by the superintendent.

5 (4) The executive director of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association or his
6 designee.

7 (5) The state public defender or his designee.

8 (6) The executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association or his designee.

9 (7) One member of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police appointed by the
10 president of the association.

11 (8) One member of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and
12 Administration of Criminal Justice appointed by the executive director.

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

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the total membership shall
17 constitute a quorum of the task force and any official action by the task force shall require
18 an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the names of the members chosen, designated,
20 or elected as provided herein shall be submitted to the president of the Senate by August 1,
21 2023, and the chair shall thereafter call the first meeting of the task force.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Senate Legislative Services shall provide staff
23 support to the task force.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may request additional staff
25 support from the Louisiana State Police and the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement
26 and Administration of Criminal Justice.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
28 Louisiana State Police, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, the state public defender,
29 the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, and the
30 Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary B to the original bill

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Adds requirement that Senate Legislative Services provide staff support to the task force.
3. Adds that the task force may request additional staff support from the La. State Police and the La. Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice.
4. Changes the requirement that submission of members names be sent to the president of the Senate rather than the chair of the task force.