

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 168

BY REPRESENTATIVE SEABAUGH

CRIME: Creates a task force to study the effects of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative and the rise of violent crime in Louisiana

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create the Louisiana Violent Crime Task Force to study and evaluate recent legislative  
3 reforms to the Louisiana criminal justice system and the effects of such reforms on  
4 public safety and crime in Louisiana and to propose future legislation to address and  
5 improve public safety and reduce crime in Louisiana.

6 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana, through legislative efforts, underwent significant  
7 criminal justice reform measures in 2016 and 2017; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2016, Louisiana enacted the "Raise the Age" legislation which  
9 resulted in seventeen-year-olds being transferred from the adult criminal justice system to  
10 the juvenile justice system; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2017, Louisiana enacted Act Nos. 260, 261, 262, 264, 277, 280, 281,  
12 and 282 which included the stated goals of reducing the Louisiana prison population and  
13 reducing the financial burdens placed upon convicted offenders; and

14 WHEREAS, the Louisiana prison population dropped substantially since the  
15 effective date of criminal justice reforms; and

16 WHEREAS, the Louisiana incarceration rate has been reduced substantially and the  
17 reduction has outpaced the national trends; and

18 WHEREAS, these recent reforms have resulted in tens of thousands of convicted  
19 felons being returned to the community without access to significant recidivism reduction  
20 programming; and

1           WHEREAS, these recent reforms also included significant obstacles to revoking the  
2 probation of felony offenders, which has resulted in significant reductions in the number of  
3 offenders whose probation has actually been revoked; and

4           WHEREAS, on November 1, 2017, the state of Louisiana released one thousand nine  
5 hundred forty-eight offenders early as the direct result of these criminal justice reforms; and

6           WHEREAS, there has been little appreciable reduction in recidivism in spite of the  
7 revocation obstacles, the removal of the seventeen-year-old population from the criminal  
8 justice system, and the substantial amounts dedicated to reducing recidivism; and

9           WHEREAS, juvenile crime and particularly violent juvenile crime have negatively  
10 impacted public safety and endangered our communities at an alarming rate; and

11           WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has experienced a rapid and significant rise in  
12 violent crime and homicides since these criminal justice reforms.

13           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
14 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Louisiana Violent Crime Task Force to study  
15 and evaluate recent legislative reforms to the Louisiana criminal justice system and the  
16 effects of such reforms on public safety and crime in Louisiana and to propose future  
17 legislation to address and improve public safety and reduce crime in Louisiana.

18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Violent Crime Task Force shall  
19 be composed of the following members:

20           (1) The attorney general of Louisiana, or his designee, who shall serve as chairman.

21           (2) An elected member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker  
22 from a list of names submitted by the attorney general of Louisiana.

23           (3) An elected member of the Senate, appointed by the president from a list of names  
24 submitted by the attorney general of Louisiana.

25           (4) The executive director of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, or his  
26 designee.

27           (5) An elected member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker  
28 from a list of names submitted by the Louisiana District Attorneys Association.

29           (6) An elected member of the Senate, appointed by the president from a list of names  
30 submitted by the Louisiana District Attorneys Association.

1 (7) The executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, or his designee.

2 (8) An elected member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker  
3 from a list of names submitted by the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.

4 (9) An elected member of the Senate, appointed by the president from a list of names  
5 submitted by the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.

6 (9) The state public defender, or his designee.

7 (10) An elected member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker  
8 from a list of names submitted by the state public defender.

9 (11) An elected member of the Senate, appointed by the president from a list of  
10 names submitted by the state public defender.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the membership of the task force  
12 shall constitute a quorum. The task force shall meet at the call of the chair or upon an  
13 affirmative vote of a majority of the members. All members shall be notified in writing of  
14 all meetings at least five days before the date on which a meeting of the task force is  
15 scheduled.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the duties of the task force shall include, but not  
17 be limited to, all of the following:

18 (1) Gather and evaluate data and information from relevant stakeholders regarding  
19 the various aspects of the criminal justice system in Louisiana before and after the criminal  
20 justice reforms, including arrests, charges, prosecutions, sentences, probation and parole  
21 activity, incarceration, and recidivism.

22 (2) Evaluate and develop a plan of action to address areas of concern identified  
23 through the gathering and evaluation of criminal justice data and information.

24 (3) Recommend any legislation necessary for the 2024 Regular Session of the  
25 Legislature to accomplish all identified goals of true criminal justice reform that reduces  
26 crime and recidivism in Louisiana while improving public safety and strengthening our  
27 communities.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may request and collect relevant  
29 and necessary data and information to accomplish its purposes from any and all state and  
30 local government agencies, including courts.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the entities from which such information and  
2 data is requested may, to the extent feasible, provide such information and data to the task  
3 force at no cost.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of the attorney general shall provide  
5 staff support to the task force.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall prepare and submit a report  
7 of its findings and policy recommendations to the speaker of the House of Representatives  
8 and the president of the Senate no later than December 31, 2023, and any further reports or  
9 recommendations thereafter as requested by the legislature or as advised by the task force.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to each  
11 of the task force members and the appointing entities provided in this Resolution.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one print copy and one electronic copy of any  
13 report produced pursuant to this Resolution shall be submitted to the David R. Poynter  
14 Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

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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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HR 168 Original

2023 Regular Session

Seabaugh

Creates the La. Violent Crime Task Force to study and evaluate recent legislative reforms to the La. criminal justice system and to report its findings to the legislature no later than Dec. 31, 2023.