

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 296

BY REPRESENTATIVE GLOVER

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Laura Gail Sullivan for her decades of dedicated and distinguished public service

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend and congratulate Laura Gail Sullivan for her decades of dedicated and
3 distinguished public service.

4 WHEREAS, Laura Gail was born in Jennings, Louisiana, to Catherine Calhoun
5 Edgar and the late Sidney James Sullivan Jr. as the eldest of their four children, and she is
6 also big sister to a bonus younger brother from her father's second marriage; and

7 WHEREAS, Laura Gail is a 1983 graduate of Lake Arthur High School in Jefferson
8 Davis Parish, a 1987 graduate of Centenary College of Louisiana with a bachelor's in
9 mathematics, a 1991 graduate of Louisiana State University with a master's in journalism,
10 and a 1993 graduate of California Western School of Law with a juris doctorate; and

11 WHEREAS, Laura Gail was admitted to the Louisiana State Bar in 1995 and the
12 California State Bar in 1996; and

13 WHEREAS, in April of 1994, Laura Gail began her public service career as a judicial
14 clerk for the Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Charles "Corky" Marvin from
15 whom she learned "There is no such thing as good writing, only good rewriting", which
16 became an art that she perfected through her career; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1996, she transferred to the gaming division of the Louisiana
18 Department of Justice as an assistant attorney general, and in 1997, she went to work for the
19 House of Representatives for the first time as the staff attorney for the House Committee on
20 Labor and Industrial Relations with Chairman Representative Charlie DeWitt; she often

1 credits Chairman DeWitt for sharing political insights and helping her to learn how to "read
2 a room" and "read a vote"; and

3 WHEREAS, in mid-1999, she left the legislature for a brief time to work in the
4 private sector, but in January of 2000, Laura Gail returned to the House of Representatives
5 to again staff the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, and less than a year
6 later transferred to the House Committee on Health and Welfare to work with Chairman
7 Rodney Alexander; it was during her time with health and welfare that she drafted, at the
8 request of Representatives Cedric B. Glover and Tony Perkins, the legislation she is most
9 proud of – Act 109 of the First Extraordinary Session of 2000 that provides a safe haven for
10 relinquishment of newborn babies; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2002, she transferred to the House Committee on Retirement and it
12 is in that subject matter that she found her niche, spending the balance of her public service
13 career mastering the intricacies of the law and challenges on the various retirement systems;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, in 2005, Laura Gail moved to the "upper chamber" to staff the Senate
16 Committee on Retirement; and

17 WHEREAS, in 2008, she was promoted to Senate Counsel, and it was during the
18 2008-2012 term that she recalls having a "dream team" legislative experience working under
19 Senate retirement chairman Senator Dudley "Butch" Gautreaux with Senate staff attorney
20 Lauren Bailey and secretary Janice Hughes and House retirement chairman Representative
21 Joel Robideaux and House staff attorney Matt Tessier and secretary Karen Stephens, and
22 Legislative Auditor staff Paul Richmond; working together, the "dream team" drafted and
23 the legislature passed a workable strategy to address the state's initial unfunded accrued
24 liability (IUAL), yielding a final payoff in 2029; and

25 WHEREAS, in addition to her committee staffing responsibilities, since becoming
26 Senate Counsel in 2008, Laura Gail has also had responsibilities as Amendment Room
27 Manager and Night Manager and has staffed numerous task forces and legislative
28 commissions and served as her chairman's designee on several retirement boards and
29 committees; and

1 WHEREAS, in 2020, Laura Gail was appointed a division director in the Senate, the
2 position she currently holds; and

3 WHEREAS, during her Senate career, Laura Gail has directly staffed or supervised
4 the staff of eleven of the Senate's seventeen standing committees; and

5 WHEREAS, in her quiet, determined, and understated manner, Laura Gail embodies
6 and upholds the highest ideals intrinsic to a successful legislative staffer; and

7 WHEREAS, Laura Gail always approaches her work in an intentional, practical
8 fashion – every issue thoroughly researched, every response carefully considered, and every
9 legislative instrument drafted and redrafted to be clean, precise, and reflect the author's
10 intent; and

11 WHEREAS, all who interact with Laura Gail are impressed by her intelligence,
12 competence, dedication, honesty, and integrity; undergirding her character is her intense
13 loyalty to those fortunate to be counted among her friends; and

14 WHEREAS, Laura Gail's institutional knowledge of her subject matter and the
15 legislative process is vast and deep; to simply say that she will be missed by her colleagues
16 is a serious understatement; and

17 WHEREAS, despite her workload and personal responsibilities, Laura Gail always
18 makes time to help a colleague; she often speaks of the love and support she felt from her
19 "Senate Family" during her battle with cancer and the perspective it brought to her life,
20 making the return of this affection even more of a priority for her than it was before her
21 battle; and

22 WHEREAS, in the years that follow, Laura Gail shall fondly recall memories and
23 significant events from the past, the rarefied environment that is state government, and the
24 colorful cast of characters that have graced the halls of the Legislature of Louisiana.

25 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
26 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Laura Gail Sullivan on the
27 occasion of her retirement after three decades of dedicated and distinguished public service;
28 does hereby acknowledge and recognize the myriad of contributions she has made on behalf
29 of this August body and the state of Louisiana; and does hereby extend to her best wishes
30 and much success and fulfillment as she enters the next chapter of her life.

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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