

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 43

BY REPRESENTATIVE BOYD

COURTS: Creates the Judicial Security Task Force

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A RESOLUTION

To create and establish the Judicial Security Task Force to identify minimum requirements for courthouse safety, to determine the minimum number of security officers that should be present in each type of judicial proceeding in a circuit or district court, to determine the minimum qualifications for security officers, to determine the minimum standards for secure entry and exit of judicial officers from court facilities, including minimum standards for secure parking and, if such parking is not connected to the courthouse, secure transit between parking and the courthouse, to determine the minimum standards for safe public areas of courthouses, including for the protection of judicial officers who are required to enter public areas of the courthouse in the performance of their duties, to identify physical security deficiencies that currently exist in courthouses and develop a plan to address these deficiencies, and to report its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Judiciary no later than February 1, 2025.

WHEREAS, protecting the safety and security of judicial officers throughout Louisiana and the United States has become an issue of critical importance due to threats, assaults, and murders of judicial officers and their family members; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to bolster efforts to protect the judiciary and safeguard the personal information of judges and their immediate families; and

1 WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the Daniel Aderl Judicial Security
2 and Privacy Act in 2020, after an aggrieved litigant murdered the only son of U.S. District
3 Judge Esther Salas at her personal residence; and

4 WHEREAS, in recent years, an increasing number of judges have been threatened
5 for carrying out their critical work of administering justice; and

6 WHEREAS, personal information about judges and their families, including home
7 addresses, is easily found online; and

8 WHEREAS, it is imperative to find the appropriate balance between the safety of
9 judges and their families and the importance of transparency and accountability in the
10 judiciary.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
12 acknowledge these increasing threats to judicial officers and seeks to ensure the protection,
13 safety, and security of judicial officers and their families and establish the Judicial Security
14 Task Force.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the
16 following members:

17 (1) The chief justice of the supreme court, or his designee.

18 (2) The chair of the Louisiana Conference of Court of Appeal Judges, or his
19 designee.

20 (3) The president of the Louisiana District Judges Association, or his designee.

21 (4) The president of the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, or
22 his designee.

23 (5) The president of the Louisiana City Court Judges Association, or his designee.

24 (6) Three members of parish leadership, or their designees, from parishes with
25 varying density populations, appointed by the governor.

26 (7) One member of the Louisiana Senate, appointed by the president of the Senate.

27 (8) One member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, appointed by the
28 speaker of the House of Representatives.

29 (9) Three sheriffs, or their designees, from parishes with varying density
30 populations, appointed by the governor.

1 (10) The superintendent of Louisiana State Police, or his designee.

2 (11) Three chiefs of police, or their designees, from parishes with varying density
3 populations, appointed by the governor.

4 (12) A magistrate from a district court, appointed by the chief justice of the supreme
5 court.

6 (13) One clerk of a district court, appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court.

7 (14) One bailiff of a district court, appointed by the chief justice of the supreme
8 court.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
10 to the governor, the chief justice of the supreme court, the chair of the Louisiana Conference
11 of Court of Appeals Judges, the president of the Louisiana District Judges Association, the
12 president of the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the president of the
13 Louisiana City Court Judges Association, the superintendent of the Louisiana State Police,
14 the chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary, the president of the Senate, and the
15 speaker of the House of Representatives, and that the task force established pursuant to this
16 Resolution report its findings and recommendations to the legislature on or before February
17 1, 2025.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force established pursuant to this
19 Resolution shall submit one print copy and one electronic copy of any report produced
20 pursuant to this Resolution to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required
21 by R.S. 24:772.

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)]

HR 43 Original

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Boyd

Creates the Judicial Security Task Force.