

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 39

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

JUDGES: Provides for the continuation of the Judicial Structure Task Force as established by House Resolution No. 30 of the 2022 Regular Session

1                                      A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2    To continue and reestablish the Judicial Structure Task Force created by House Resolution  
3                No. 30 of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

4                WHEREAS, the Judicial Structure Task Force was created in the 2022 Regular  
5    Session pursuant to House Resolution No. 30 to study the caseload data and the number of  
6    judges of each appellate court and district court in Louisiana, to determine changes necessary  
7    to the existing structure of the judiciary, and to provide the most efficient use of judicial  
8    resources; and

9                WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 143 of the 2011 Regular Session of  
10   the Louisiana Legislature requested the supreme court to study the structure of the judiciary;  
11   and

12                WHEREAS, the task force has met twelve times since its inception to determine the  
13   efficient methodology and approach for the district courts weighted caseload study; and

14                WHEREAS, the National Center for State Courts developed a work point study to  
15   assess the workload of district and appellate courts throughout the state; and

16                WHEREAS, an updated work point study is needed to accurately assess the structure  
17   and workload of the judiciary; and

18                WHEREAS, the release of the detailed 2020 federal decennial census data on August  
19   12, 2021, revealed serious population losses in some parts of the state and tremendous  
20   population growth in other parts of the state; and

1           WHEREAS, as population shifts from some areas of this state to others, it would be  
2 prudent to examine the caseload data from each court in the state of Louisiana to determine  
3 if the judicial resources are being used in the most efficient manner possible; and

4           WHEREAS, population and demographic changes in the state of Louisiana provide  
5 a reassessment opportunity to determine if reallocation of judicial resources may be needed;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, it is of utmost importance to consider the case filing data, case weights,  
8 court structure and finance, and the use of support personnel in order to establish proper  
9 funding and distribution of such funds to the courts; and

10          WHEREAS, the legislature will be unable to appropriate such funds as are necessary  
11 for the judicial system without receiving proper and sufficient data to support such an  
12 appropriation; and

13          WHEREAS, it is also necessary to study the territorial boundaries and the  
14 jurisdictional limits of each court.

15          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
16 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby continue the Judicial Structure Task Force to study the  
17 caseload data and the number of judges of each appellate court and district court in  
18 Louisiana, and to determine the changes necessary to the existing structure of the judiciary  
19 and the most efficient use of judicial resources.

20          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the  
21 following members:

22           (1) Three members of the House Committee on Appropriations appointed by the  
23 speaker of the House of Representatives.

24           (2) Three members of the House Committee on Judiciary appointed by the speaker  
25 of the House of Representatives.

26           (3) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the  
27 House of Representatives.

28           (4) The chief justice of the Supreme Court, or his designee.

29           (5) The chair of the Louisiana Conference of Court of Appeals Judges, or his  
30 designee.

1           (6) Two judges, at least one of whom serves in a judicial district composed of two  
2 or more parishes, who are members of the Louisiana District Judges Association selected  
3 by the president of the association.

4           (7) One member of the Senate and one judge appointed by the president of the  
5 Senate.

6           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for purposes of this study, the task force shall  
7 have all powers otherwise provided by law and by rules of the House of Representatives, as  
8 well as all powers inherent in legislative committees, and that the legislative members shall  
9 receive the per diem and mileage authorized by law and in accordance with the rules of the  
10 member's house of the legislature.

11           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a member of the House of Representatives on  
12 the task force designated by the speaker of the House of Representatives shall serve as the  
13 chairman of the task force and that the members of the task force shall select any other  
14 officers it deems necessary from among its members at the first meeting of task force.

15           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman of the task force shall cause notice  
16 of each meeting of the task force to be provided to the speaker of the House of  
17 Representatives, the chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, and the chairman  
18 of the House Committee on Judiciary.

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature  
20 of Louisiana further directs the task force to solicit input, information, data,  
21 recommendations, and advice from the following persons, agencies, and organizations in  
22 connection with the study directed by this Resolution:

23           (1) The Louisiana Supreme Court.

24           (2) The Louisiana District Judges Association.

25           (3) The Louisiana Clerks of Court Association.

26           (4) The Louisiana District Attorneys Association.

27           (5) The office of the state public defender.

28           (6) The Louisiana State Bar Association.

29           (7) The Louisiana Association for Justice.

30           (8) The National Center for State Courts.

1 (9) Louisiana Association of Business & Industry.

2 (10) Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

3 (11) Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel.

4 (12) Any persons, agencies, entities, or stakeholders that the joint committee deems  
5 necessary to fulfill its purposes.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may seek staff assistance and  
7 advice from the office of the judicial administrator for the Supreme Court of Louisiana.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of  
9 its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Appropriations and the House  
10 Committee on Judiciary not later than February 1, 2025, and that such recommendations  
11 shall include the following:

12 (1) An updated work point study from the National Center for State Courts.

13 (2) Data from the National Center for State Courts on district court work flow.

14 (3) The caseload data of each appellate court and district court in Louisiana.

15 (4) The number of judges in each appellate court and district court in Louisiana.

16 (5) A determination of any necessary changes to the existing structure of the  
17 judiciary.

18 (6) A determination of the most efficient use of judicial resources.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
20 chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, the chairman of the House Committee  
21 on Judiciary, the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the  
22 chief justice of the supreme court, the chair of the Louisiana Conference of Court of Appeals  
23 Judges, and the president of the Louisiana District Judges Association.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one print copy and one electronic copy of any  
25 report produced pursuant to this Resolution shall be submitted to the David R. Poynter  
26 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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HCR 39 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Zeringue

Continues and reestablishes the Judicial Structure Task Force to study the caseload data and the number of judges of each appellate court and district court, to determine the changes necessary to the existing structure of the judiciary and the most efficient use of judicial resources, and to report its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Judiciary no later than Feb. 1, 2025.