

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY REPRESENTATIVE HENRY BURNS

PUBLIC HEALTH: Urges and requests the Louisiana State Law Institute to study and make recommendations concerning gun ownership rights of persons who have attempted suicide

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana State Law Institute to study and make recommendations  
3 concerning gun ownership rights of persons who have attempted suicide and to  
4 report its findings to the legislative committees on health and welfare and criminal  
5 justice.

6 WHEREAS, suicide is a pervasive public health problem in the United States; and  
7 WHEREAS, in our nation, twice as many lives are lost annually to suicide than to  
8 homicide; and

9 WHEREAS, the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention published in 2012 by the  
10 United States Surgeon General's Office in conjunction with the National Action Alliance for  
11 Suicide Prevention highlights the following facts and statistics concerning suicide:

12 (1) On average, over thirty-three thousand Americans died each year as a result of  
13 suicide between 2001 and 2009, which equates to roughly one life lost to suicide every  
14 fifteen minutes.

15 (2) Over the one-year period prior to publication of National Strategy for Suicide  
16 Prevention, more than eight million adults reported having serious thoughts of suicide, two  
17 million five hundred thousand adults reported making a suicide plan, and one million one  
18 hundred thousand adults reported making a suicide attempt.

1           (3) Nearly sixteen percent of students in grades nine to twelve report having  
2 seriously considered suicide, and nearly eight percent of students in these grades report  
3 having attempted suicide one or more times in the past twelve months; and

4           WHEREAS, beyond the recommended approaches to prevention set forth in the  
5 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention, an emerging prevention strategy focuses on  
6 firearms access; and

7           WHEREAS, the prominent suicide prevention initiative of the Harvard School of  
8 Public Health known as "Means Matter" asserts that access to a firearm is a risk factor for  
9 suicide; and

10          WHEREAS, because firearm ownership rights encompass complex and highly  
11 nuanced legal issues, any prospective restriction on such rights merits careful and deliberate  
12 study; and

13          WHEREAS, R.S. 24:204 provides that among the purposes of the Louisiana State  
14 Law Institute are securing the better administration of justice, conducting scholarly legal  
15 research and scientific legal work, and promotion of better adaptation of Louisiana law to  
16 present social needs.

17          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
18 urge and request the Louisiana State Law Institute to study and make recommendations  
19 concerning gun ownership rights of persons who have attempted suicide and to report its  
20 findings to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health  
21 and Welfare, the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice, and the  
22 Senate Committee on Judiciary B on or before February 1, 2015.

23          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing its study and recommendations,  
24 the Louisiana State Law Institute may engage, collaborate with, and obtain information and  
25 perspective from stakeholder groups with an interest in suicide prevention.

26          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
27 director of the Louisiana State Law Institute.

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)]

---

Henry Burns

HCR No. 26

Requests the La. State Law Institute to study and make recommendations concerning gun ownership rights of persons who have attempted suicide and to report its findings to the legislative committees on health and welfare and criminal justice.