

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 154

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLMOTT

ANIMALS: Creates a task force to study the collection, appropriation, and use of certain funds for the care of Louisiana domestic animals

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create a task force to study the collection, appropriation, and disbursement of funds

3 received by out-of-state nonprofit animal welfare organizations for the care of

4 Louisiana domestic animals prior to, during, or after a disaster or emergency, and

5 provide the Joint Committee on Homeland Security and the Office of the Louisiana

6 Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division, with additional information to

7 ensure that the funds are fairly and adequately dispersed to Louisiana shelters and

8 humane organizations.

9 WHEREAS, the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act

10 requires the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to ensure that state and

11 local emergency preparedness operational plans address the needs of individuals with

12 household pets and service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or

13 emergency; and

14 WHEREAS, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency

15 Preparedness, either directly or through authorized assignment to another state agency or

16 department, identifies or establishes evacuation shelters that are in close proximity to a

17 human sheltering facility designed and equipped to accept and temporarily house the

18 household pets of evacuees and canine search and rescue teams; and

19 WHEREAS, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency

20 Preparedness, either directly or through authorized assignment to another state agency or

21 department, develops guidelines for such "side by side" shelters which may include

1 standards or criteria for admission to such shelters, health and safety standards, basic
2 minimum animal care standards regarding nutrition, space, hygiene, and medical needs,
3 protocols, and procedures for ensuring adequate sheltering, management, and veterinary
4 staffing for such shelters; and

5 WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana has a vested interest in ensuring monies
6 received by out-of-state nonprofit animal welfare organizations for the care of in-state
7 domestic animals prior to, during, or after a disaster are fairly and adequately disbursed to
8 Louisiana animal shelters and humane organizations for animal disaster relief work.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
10 create the task force to study and evaluate the collection and appropriation of funds received
11 by out-of-state nonprofit animal welfare organizations for the care of Louisiana domestic
12 animals prior to, during, or after a disaster or emergency and its disbursement to Louisiana
13 animal shelters for animal disaster relief work.

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

16 (1) Two representatives of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and
17 Emergency Preparedness, designated by the director of the department.

18 (2) Two representatives of the Humane Society of Louisiana, designated by the
19 executive director of the organization.

20 (3) One representative of the Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission, designated
21 by the chairman of the commission.

22 (4) One representative of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, designated
23 by the commissioner of the department.

24 (5) One representative of the Coalition of Louisiana Animal Advocates, designated
25 by its board of directors.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit their findings to the
27 Joint Committee on Homeland Security and the Office of the Louisiana Attorney General,
28 Consumer Protection Division, no later than June 30, 2016.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this task force will be staffed by the House
30 Select Committee on Homeland Security for all meetings of the task force.

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)]

HCR 154 Original

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Willmott

Creates a task force to study the collection, appropriation, and disbursement of funds received by out-of-state nonprofit animal welfare organizations for the care of La. domestic animals after a disaster or emergency and provide the Joint Committee on Homeland Security and the Office of the Louisiana Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division, with additional information to ensure that the funds are fairly and adequately dispersed to La. shelters and humane organizations.

Provides that the committee shall submit a final report to the House of Representatives by June 30, 2016.

Provides that the task force will be staffed by the House Select Committee on Homeland Security.

Provides that the task force be composed of the following members:

- (1) Two representatives of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, designated by the director of the department.
- (2) Two representatives of the Humane Society of Louisiana, designated by the executive director of the organization.
- (3) One representative of the Louisiana Animal Welfare Commission, designated by the chairman of the commission.
- (4) One representative of the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry, designated by the commissioner of the department.
- (5) One representative of the Coalition of Louisiana Animal Advocates, designated by its board of directors.