

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 39

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOLLIS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To authorize and request the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to meet and function as a joint committee to study and make recommendations with respect to the advisability of reducing the number of signatures required to have a recall election.

WHEREAS, Article X, Section 26 of the Constitution of Louisiana requires the legislature to provide by general law for the recall by election of any state, district, parochial, ward, or municipal official except judges of the courts of record; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to this constitutional mandate, the legislature enacted Chapter 6-C of the Louisiana Election Code to govern recall elections; and

WHEREAS, the law provides for a process that begins with the circulation of a petition during a limited time period to obtain the signatures of electors within the applicable voting area; and

WHEREAS, if the required number of signatures for the petition is obtained prior to the deadline, an election is held to determine whether the public officer will be recalled and removed from office; and

WHEREAS, the law requires the petition to be signed by a number of the electors of the voting area as will in number equal not less than thirty-three and one-third percent of the number of the total electors of the voting area wherein and for which a recall election is petitioned; however, where fewer than one thousand qualified electors reside within the voting area, the petition must be signed by not less than forty percent of the electors; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's signature requirement is among the highest of those states that provide for recall; and

WHEREAS, a study is needed to determine whether the number of signatures required to have a recall election should be reduced.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby authorize and request the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to meet and function as a joint committee to study and make recommendations with respect to the advisability of reducing the number of signatures required to have a recall election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the legislature not later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2016 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE