

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 47

BY REPRESENTATIVE BROADWATER

A RESOLUTION

To create and provide for a special subcommittee to be comprised of members of the Committee on Appropriations; the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs; the Committee on Judiciary; the Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs; and the Committee on Ways and Means to examine and study certain matters relative to elections.

WHEREAS, elections are a fundamental part of federal, state, and local government; they allow citizens to exercise their right to vote and thereby to have input into how their country, state, and community are governed; and

WHEREAS, it is therefore appropriate to constantly examine our system of elections to determine how it might be improved; and

WHEREAS, an area that should be examined is the number of elections conducted in the state during an election cycle; and

WHEREAS, several officials who hold the same type of office run for election at different times; and

WHEREAS, one possible way to reduce the number of elections would be to hold all elections for the same type of office at the same time; and

WHEREAS, another area that should be examined is qualifying; and

WHEREAS, present law provides that the opening of the qualifying period is less than two months before the date of the primary election for most elections; and

WHEREAS, extending the time period between the opening of qualifying and the election would provide voters with a better opportunity to learn about the candidates and to make an informed vote; and

WHEREAS, however, there are a number of issues that should be examined if this time period is to be extended significantly; and

WHEREAS, the cost of conducting elections is also a subject that should be examined; and

WHEREAS, because the system of elections touches on subject matters that cross the jurisdictions of a number of standing committees, a multidisciplinary approach is advisable to examine this important topic.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create a special subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations; the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs; the Committee on Judiciary; the Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs; and the Committee on Ways and Means to examine and study certain matters relative to elections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the special subcommittee shall be composed of eleven members appointed by the speaker: three members appointed from the House Committee on Appropriations; two members appointed from the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs; two members appointed from the House Committee on Judiciary; two members appointed from the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs; and two members appointed from the House Committee on Ways and Means; the speaker shall designate the chairman of the special subcommittee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the special subcommittee shall be responsible for examining all matters relating to the system of elections in the state, including without limitation consolidating the election of officials running for the same type of office, extending the time period between the opening of the qualifying period and the election, and the costs associated with conducting elections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the special subcommittee shall make such studies as it shall find necessary or appropriate to carry out its purposes; for the purposes of conducting such studies, the special subcommittee may call upon the staffs of any department, agency, or official of the state for data and assistance, all such departments, agencies, and officials shall cooperate with the subcommittee, and the subcommittee may request and utilize the assistance of any and all public and private sources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the special subcommittee shall solicit input, recommendations, and advice from the following:

- (1) The secretary of state.

- (2) The commissioner of elections.
- (3) The attorney general.
- (4) The Louisiana Clerks of Court Association.
- (5) The Louisiana Registrars of Voters Association.
- (6) The Louisiana Municipal Association.
- (7) The Police Jury Association of Louisiana.
- (8) The Louisiana School Board Association.
- (9) The Louisiana Sheriff's Association.
- (10) The Louisiana Supreme Court.
- (11) The Louisiana District Judges Association.
- (12) Each recognized political party.
- (13) The Advocacy Center.
- (14) The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana.
- (15) The Council for A Better Louisiana.
- (16) The Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.
- (17) The Louisiana AFL-CIO.
- (18) The League of Women Voters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the special subcommittee shall have the power and authority of a standing committee to hold hearings, require the production of books and records, and do all other things necessary to discharge its duties and responsibilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the special subcommittee shall make a report of its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the House of Representatives no later than thirty days prior to the 2016 Regular Session; the special subcommittee may make other reports as it deems appropriate, but it shall also issue a report no later than thirty days prior to the 2017 Regular Session if requested by the speaker.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the special subcommittee terminates on June 30, 2017.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES