

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 33

BY REPRESENTATIVE DANAHAHAY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the secretary of state to establish policies to provide elections division employees within the Department of State who have received CERA certification with a pay increase relative to such certification.

WHEREAS, R.S. 18:59.4 establishes the Louisiana Voter Registration Administrator's Certification program to recognize the professional standards of registrars of voters, chief deputy registrars, and confidential assistants to registrars of voters in the state; and

WHEREAS, the program is designed to provide registrars of voters, chief deputy registrars, and confidential assistants educational courses and a curriculum to develop core skills required for election and voter registration administration and to establish additional professional bonds of achievement; and

WHEREAS, education and training for the program is provided through courses of the Certified Elections Registration Administrator (CERA) program administered through Auburn University and the Election Center; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Voter Registration Administrator's Certification program requires a minimum of twelve CERA courses of twelve hours in length for a total of one hundred forty-four hours to be completed within five years; maintenance of a yearly rating of "excellent" on the annual merit evaluation conducted pursuant to R.S. 18:55(A); five years work experience related to the administration of elections and voter registration; and completion of all continuing education course hours required to maintain certification; and

WHEREAS, if a registrar, chief deputy registrar, or confidential assistant to a registrar completes and maintains these requirements, the official is entitled to a seven percent compensation enhancement; and

WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 94 of the 2015 R.S. (HR No. 94) created a subcommittee of the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to examine matters relating to the compensation, evaluation, appointment, and placement within the structure of government of registrars of voters, payment of expenses incurred by a registrar of voters for early voting, and any related issues that the subcommittee deems appropriate; and

WHEREAS, during subcommittee hearings pursuant to HR No. 94, there was discussion concerning employees in the elections division of the Department of State who work with registrars of voters and employees of the registrar to administer elections, who are CERA certified, but who do not receive a compensation enhancement based on that certification; and

WHEREAS, the subcommittee voted to recommend that like registrars, chief deputy registrars, and confidential assistants to registrars, elections division employees within the Department of State who have received CERA certification receive a pay increase based on that certification—for unclassified employees, the pay increase should be in accordance with policies established by the secretary of state, and for classified employees, the pay increase should be in accordance with applicable civil service rules and regulations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the secretary of state to establish policies to provide elections division employees within the Department of State who have received CERA certification with a pay increase relative to such certification.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of state.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE