

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 184

BY REPRESENTATIVE LANCE HARRIS

MOTOR VEHICLES: Authorizes and directs the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services, to analyze compliance with certain requirements for operation of a motor vehicle and traffic laws

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To authorize and direct the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to analyze
3 compliance with certain requirements for operation of a motor vehicle and traffic
4 laws since penalties have been increased and to report the findings to the Senate and
5 House committees on transportation, highways and public works and to the member
6 of the House of Representatives representing District 25 on or before January 1,
7 2017.

8 WHEREAS, the purpose of traffic regulations is to promote the safe use of the roads,
9 streets, and highways of the state; and

10 WHEREAS, the intent for assigning penalties for traffic infractions has been to
11 discourage violations by linking monetary consequences to undesirable driver behavior; and

12 WHEREAS, the imposed penalties serve as a deterrent, protect residents of and
13 visitors to the state, and potentially dissuade an offender's repeat behavior; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2015, one thousand seventy-four vehicles were involved in traffic
15 related fatal accidents, which resulted in six hundred eighty-one fatalities in Louisiana; and

16 WHEREAS, of the two million nine hundred seventy-two thousand seven hundred
17 twenty-four licensed drivers in the state of Louisiana, approximately four hundred eighty
18 thousand do not meet the compulsory motor vehicle liability security requirements provided
19 by law; and

1 WHEREAS, the legislature has increased fines, in some instances doubling or
2 tripling the current financial penalties, and implemented court approved community service
3 requirements for violation of certain traffic offenses; and

4 WHEREAS, the legislature has increased penalties and reinstatement fees related to
5 compulsory motor vehicle security, which include but are not limited to operating a motor
6 vehicle without the required motor vehicle liability security, and for failing to provide
7 required proof of compliance as established in Act 641, and operating a bus without
8 insurance as established in Act 559 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session; and

9 WHEREAS, the legislature has increased penalties for violations of traffic laws,
10 which include but are not limited to driving while intoxicated offenses as established in Act
11 385, careless operation of a motor vehicle as established in Act 650, and use of certain
12 cellular devices while traveling through school zones as established in Act 410 of the 2014
13 Regular Legislative Session; school bus driver's operating a vehicle while intoxicated as
14 established in Act 137 of the 2013 Regular Legislative Session; overtaking and passing
15 school buses as established in Act 259, safety belt violations in Orleans Parish as established
16 in Act 413, driving while intoxicated offenses as established in Act 571, and operating a
17 vehicle while intoxicated as established in Act 470 of the 2012 Regular Legislative Session;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the purpose of the increased penalties has been touted as a strategy to
20 eliminate traffic-related infractions and to ultimately reduce traffic-related deaths.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
22 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby authorize and direct the Department of Public Safety
23 and Corrections, public safety services, to analyze compliance with certain requirements for
24 operation of a motor vehicle and traffic laws for which penalties have been increased to
25 determine if such increase has resulted in enhanced driver compliance.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study conducted by the department shall
27 include consideration of the relationship between the amount of the fine or severity of the
28 penalty imposed and the number of traffic offenses that occur, in particular driving while
29 intoxicated offenses, operating a vehicle while intoxicated, safety belt violations, use of

1 cellular devices in school zones, careless operation of a vehicle, and failure to obtain and/or
2 maintain compulsory motor vehicle security.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study conducted by the department shall
4 include a determination of the following:

5 (1) Whether increased penalties for traffic-related infractions have lead to fewer
6 traffic citations, fewer motor vehicle accidents, and fewer traffic-related fatalities?

7 (2) Whether increased penalties for traffic-related infractions lead to a change in
8 driver behavior since the increased penalties have been in effect?

9 (3) Whether the increase in compulsory insurance reinstatement fees has yielded an
10 increase in compliance with compulsory motor vehicle liability security?

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and
12 Corrections, public safety services, shall prepare and provide a written report to the Senate
13 and House committees on transportation, highways and public works and to the member of
14 the House of Representatives representing District 25 on or before January 1, 2017.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the
16 Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services.

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)]

HR 184 Original

2016 Regular Session

Lance Harris

Authorizes and directs the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services, to analyze compliance with compulsory motor vehicle security and traffic laws to determine whether such increase in penalties has increased compliance.

Requires the study include whether increased penalties for violations of traffic laws and compulsory motor vehicle security requirements have yielded an increase in compliance by La. drivers, and resulted in fewer traffic accidents and fatalities.

Requires the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services, to submit a written report of its findings to the Senate and House committees on transportation, highways and public works and to the member of the House of Representatives representing District 25 on or before Jan. 1, 2017.