

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 145

BY REPRESENTATIVE STOKES

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Designates Tuesday, May 31, 2016, as abstinence day
in the state of Louisiana

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To designate Tuesday, May 31, 2016, as abstinence day in the state of Louisiana.

3 WHEREAS, in early Christian and classical societies, the survival of a community
4 was understood to depend on the virtue of its citizens; to this way of thinking, the
5 government's most important role was training its citizens to be virtuous; and

6 WHEREAS, though various ancient communities emphasized various aspects of
7 virtue, the idea always implied an element of self-discipline, of controlling the passions,
8 which allows one to act for the well being of others, rather than being controlled by the
9 passions, which produces a life of indulgence and destruction; and

10 WHEREAS, notions like temperance and chastity were essential to human well being
11 as without these virtues, people were expected to act selfishly and without regard for the
12 social bonds that hold communities together; and

13 WHEREAS, in the modern era, we have largely lost sight of social bonds, social
14 obligations, and virtue and replaced them self-interest as the presumed essential driver of
15 human action; as a result, modern communities are held together not by the virtue of their
16 citizens but by regulatory governments; and

17 WHEREAS, it is essential that this trend be reversed and that the citizens of our state
18 and nation rediscover their responsibilities to each other and the need for limitations on self-
19 interest and self-indulgence; and

20 WHEREAS, the absence of the virtue chastity, for example, results in unwanted
21 pregnancies and abortions and all of the social costs and degradation that come with them,

1 but as the classical thinkers, from Aristotle to St. Augustine, teach us, we can build virtuous
2 character through virtuous practice, and in the interest of rebuilding the virtue chastity,
3 practicing abstinence would be a beneficial place to start.

4 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby declares
5 Tuesday, May 31, 2016, as abstinence day in the state of Louisiana and calls upon Louisiana
6 citizens to contemplate their moral responsibilities to the social fabric of our communities
7 in considering their sexual practices.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana encourages each
9 citizen to also observe abstinence day by considering other virtues he or she might practice
10 as a way to reestablish a society built on social bonds and obligations rather than regulation.

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 145 Original

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Designates Tues., May 31, 2016, as abstinence day in the state of La.