

1 WHEREAS, prior to assuming the vital position of executive director of HLS,
2 Ms. Quaid served as director of the Legal Division, where she supervised the staff of the
3 House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, the House Committee on Civil
4 Law and Procedure, and the House Committee on Retirement from January of 1998 until
5 December of 1998; and

6 WHEREAS, in her earlier years with HLS, Ms. Quaid served as a staff attorney for
7 the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice from March of 1988 until
8 November of 1991 and for the House Committee on Civil Law from November of 1991 until
9 December of 1997, with primary responsibility for drafting and analyzing legislation,
10 staffing committee meetings, and interim studies; and

11 WHEREAS, Ms. Quaid has staffed a total of fifty-six legislative sessions, regular and
12 extraordinary, under eight Speakers, Dimos, Alario, Downer, DeWitt, Salter, Tucker,
13 Kleckley, and Barras, and has provided exemplary legislative services to four hundred House
14 members and a handful of senators; and

15 WHEREAS, an expert drafter, Ms. Quaid has crafted thousands of pieces of
16 legislation, including major legislation such as the Louisiana Children's Code; child custody,
17 visitation, and support revisions; tort reform; alternative dispute resolution; "no pay, no play"
18 automobile liability insurance law; feticide law; juvenile justice reform laws; the "dirty
19 lyrics" bill; and many more; she retains the record of having drafted the most bills in any
20 given session with more than three hundred bills to her credit in 1997; and

21 WHEREAS, Ms. Quaid has been responsible for numerous institutional changes and
22 enhancements during her tenure as a truly superb HLS director; she incorporated "value-
23 added" services to HLS's core responsibilities in supporting the one hundred five members
24 of the House; worked to upgrade and enhance bill drafting and tracking systems, websites,
25 and notification systems; and innovated the delivery of information to House members by
26 providing electronic presentations on "Hot Topics" in advance of each session, a "Session
27 Wrap" immediately after each session, and constitutional amendment summaries designed
28 to be used by legislators in giving speeches and making presentations; and

29 WHEREAS, Ms. Quaid also produced documents and processes to help members be
30 more efficient and better organized, including session calendars identifying various "safe

1 days" for the timely submission of legislative requests, and "Monday Reports"; provided
2 many opportunities for staff professional development, including training programs,
3 round-table discussions, guest lecturers, and new employee training; participated in the legal
4 representation of members and the legislative institution by writing legal briefs, defending
5 members, invoking legislative speech privilege, seeking amicus status in important legal
6 cases, and suggesting legislation to ensure protection of legislative interests and
7 independence; assisted the legislature and House leadership in preparing for term limits; and
8 played an important role in coordinating comprehensive emergency response and support
9 during and after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Gustav; and

10 WHEREAS, Ms. Quaid has been committed to HLS's mission to provide the House,
11 its members, and its committees with the highest quality legislative support services in a
12 professional, nonpartisan manner in order to carry out legislative policy and assist the
13 legislature in functioning as a coequal branch of government; and

14 WHEREAS, Ms. Quaid holds the firm belief that a nonpartisan staff is essential to
15 accomplishing the mission of HLS, and she is quick to attribute the success of HLS to its
16 eighty professional staff members; and

17 WHEREAS, in service of the community, Ms. Quaid spearheaded several charitable
18 activities conducted by House staff, including holiday meals and gifts for needy families in
19 the Baton Rouge area, Valentine's Day cards for children in the hospital, Habitat for
20 Humanity builds, and food and blood drives; and

21 WHEREAS, Ms. Quaid's numerous professional affiliations include the National
22 Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) as an executive committee staff member, staff vice
23 chair of the Legislative Effectiveness Committee, participant in the Legislative Staff
24 Management Institute and Senior Management Leadership Seminar, and member, presenter,
25 and contributor of and presenter of numerous programs for NCSL and its Research and
26 Committee Staff and Legal Services Staff Sections and the NCSL *State Legislatures*
27 magazine; the Council of State Governments as an appointed member of the Suggested State
28 Legislation Committee and member of Legislative Service Agency Directors Group; the
29 Uniform Law Commission; the Louisiana Children's Code Project; and staff of the Juvenile
30 Justice Reform Commission; and

1 WHEREAS, a gifted public speaker and presenter, Ms. Quaid has presented at
2 multiple programs of New Member Orientation for new House members; presented
3 "Watching a Bill Become Law in your Bathrobe" for the Clerks of Court Association,
4 Louisiana Municipal Association, and Louisiana Travel and Tourism Summit; delivered
5 presentations at legislative assistant training; and led House staff participation in
6 international training programs, including the International Legislative Drafting Institute:
7 Public Law Center for more than twenty years; and

8 WHEREAS, Ms. Quaid has also shared her vast knowledge and expertise in
9 presentations on the Effects of Term Limits for the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus
10 and the Livingston Republican Women; the New Limited Session for the Louisiana
11 Legislative Women's Caucus; and the Legislative Process for the Louisiana State University
12 Academy of Politics and the Cinderella Project; and

13 WHEREAS, Ms. Quaid has been a distinguished ambassador for the Louisiana
14 Legislature as a presenter at national conferences throughout the United States, including her
15 presentations on Issues in Partisan and Nonpartisan Legislative Staffing Patterns; Exemplary
16 Staff Services; the "Welcome Wagon": How Louisiana Prepares its New Members for
17 Legislative Service; Permanent Staff in a Term Limited Legislature; and Legislators and
18 Staff: Building Trust in a Polarized World; and

19 WHEREAS, it was at one of these national conferences where, when asked how she
20 would describe "high maintenance legislators", Ms. Quaid replied, "Job security"; and

21 WHEREAS, Ms. Quaid has been the deserving recipient of several special awards
22 and honors, including the National Conference of State Legislature's highly prestigious Staff
23 Achievement Award in 2015 and being named to the Moot Court Board, the national and
24 state dean's lists, the Mortar Board leadership honor organization, and Outstanding Young
25 Women of America; and

26 WHEREAS, beyond the halls of the state capitol, Ms. Quaid has made a true
27 difference in the lives of her fellow citizens through her active participation with Evergreen
28 Life Services, which serves more than one thousand individuals with developmental
29 disabilities throughout seven states, and her service as a member of the board of this

1 wonderful organization, and as a disaster relief provider for the American Red Cross; she
2 has also served and held offices on the boards of various homeowner associations; and

3 WHEREAS, Ms. Quaid holds a special place in the chronicles of the history of
4 Louisiana, for she is one of the state's most outstanding public servants; her contributions
5 to the legislature and the House of Representatives cannot be overstated, and she is
6 recognized by every member of the legislature and its staff for the singular place their
7 esteemed colleague and beloved friend occupies in chronicles of the history of this state; and

8 WHEREAS, it is fitting to take proper notice of the achievements and contributions
9 of Mary Quaid, an extraordinary public servant, and of the positive impact she has had on
10 the growth and development of the House staff and the legislature as an institution during
11 her highly skilled and productive tenure and to express the pride of the people of the state
12 in this most distinguished Louisianian.

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
14 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Mary F. Quaid for more than twenty-eight
15 years of dedicated and incredibly effective service as she retires as the longest serving
16 executive director of the House Legislative Services of the Louisiana House of
17 Representatives; does hereby express heartfelt and enduring appreciation for the pride and
18 honor she brings to the House, to the legislature, and to the state of Louisiana; and does
19 hereby extend best wishes to Ms. Quaid for continuing success and happiness as she begins
20 the next chapter of her life and embarks on new endeavors and adventures.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
22 to Mary F. Quaid.

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 202 Original

2016 Regular Session

Jim Morris

Commends and expresses appreciation to Mary F. Quaid upon her retirement as executive director of House Legislative Services of the La. House of Representatives.