

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 No. 641, and operating a bus without
8 insurance as established in Act No. 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 No. 385, careless operation of a motor vehicle as established in Act No. 650, and use of
12 certain cellular devices while traveling through school zones as established in Act No. 410
13 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session; school bus drivers operating a vehicle while
14 intoxicated as established in Act No. 137 of the 2013 Regular Legislative Session;
15 overtaking and passing school buses as established in Act No. 259, safety belt violations in
16 Orleans Parish as established in Act No. 413, driving while intoxicated offenses as
17 established in Act No. 571, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated as established in Act
18 No. 470 of the 2012 Regular Legislative Session; 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 urge and request the Louisiana Highway Safety
23 Commission to analyze compliance with certain requirements for operation of a motor
24 vehicle and traffic laws for which penalties have been increased to determine if such increase
25 has resulted in enhanced driver compliance.

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

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

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study conducted by the Louisiana Highway
4 Safety Commission shall include a determination of the following:

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

7 (2) Whether increased penalties for traffic-related infractions led 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 Louisiana Transportation Research Center
12 and the Department of Insurance shall provide any assistance required by the Louisiana
13 Highway Safety Commission to complete the study requested herein.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission
15 shall prepare and provide a written report to the House Committee on Transportation,
16 Highways and Public Works and to the member of the House of Representatives
17 representing House District Number 25 on or before January 1, 2017.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the
19 chairman of the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission.

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 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Lance Harris

Urges and requests the La. Hwy. Safety Commission 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 La. Transportation Research Center and the Dept. of Insurance provide any assistance required by the La. Hwy. Safety Commission to complete the study requested.

Requires the La. Hwy. Safety Commission 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 House District No. 25 on or before Jan. 1, 2017.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Require the study be conducted by the La. Hwy. Safety Commission instead of the Dept. of Public Safety, public safety services.
3. Change the resolution from an authorize and direct to an urge and request.
4. Require the La. Hwy. Safety Commission and the Dept. of Insurance provide any assistance required by the La. Hwy. Safety Commission to complete the study requested.