## 2016 Regular Session

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 153

## BY REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON

# LAW ENFORCEMENT: Requests local, parish, and state law enforcement agencies to implement special training for officers who encounter military veterans in crisis

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request local, parish, and state law enforcement agencies to implement special
3	training for officers who encounter military service members and veterans who
4	encounter crisis situations that result from reintegration into civilian life.
5	WHEREAS, military service members and veterans experience a unique set of
6	circumstances when reintegrating back into society after deployment; and
7	WHEREAS, law enforcement officers play an integral role in caring for the citizens
8	of Louisiana; and
9	WHEREAS, often military service members and veterans suffer from physical and
10	psychological consequences from traumatic experiences which may result in injury to
11	themselves, their families, and law enforcement personnel; and
12	WHEREAS, research continues to show that the effects of wartime service and
13	injuries, such as traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, or other service-
14	related conditions, may increase the number of veterans who attempt or commit suicide; and
15	WHEREAS, law enforcement officers are usually the first to respond to a military
16	service member or veteran in crisis and must be able to demonstrate a set of specific skills
17	and de-escalation strategies and tactics to address those situations; and
18	WHEREAS, law enforcement officers that come in contact with military service
19	members and veterans in crisis must be trained in order to recognize factors that may
20	indicate thoughts of suicide or harm to others; and

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1 WHEREAS, despite the increased awareness of suicide as a public health problem, 2 studies indicate that law enforcement officers who come in contact with people at risk for 3 suicide are not adequately trained to recognize factors that may indicate a potential for 4 suicide; and 5 WHEREAS, training of law enforcement officers in suicide assessment would be 6 effective, valuable, and life-saving for military service members and veterans in crisis; and 7 WHEREAS, training for law enforcement officers that includes identification of 8 mental illness and behavioral disorders, conditions that may indicate a higher risk for stress-9 related disorders would greatly assist military service members and veterans who encounter 10 crisis situations that result from reintegration into civilian life; and 11 WHEREAS, it is vital that law enforcement agency personnel respond to military 12 service members and veterans with special awareness of those service members who have 13 been deployed in their military career. 14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 15 urge and request local, parish, and state law enforcement agencies to develop and implement 16 special training for law enforcement officers that come in direct contact with military service 17 members and veterans who encounter crisis situations that result from veteran reintegration 18 in order to recognize the factors that may indicate thoughts of suicide or harm to others. 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the 20 president of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, the executive director of the 21 Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, and the superintendent of Louisiana State Police.

### 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 153 Original

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Jackson

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