

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 135

BY REPRESENTATIVE MACK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create and establish the Louisiana Probation, Parole, and Correctional Officer Compensation Study Commission to study and examine the feasibility of providing a salary increase for Louisiana probation, parole, and correctional officers and to report its findings to the governor and the Louisiana Legislature by February 1, 2017.

WHEREAS, one of the primary goals of the Louisiana criminal justice system is to safely reduce recidivism by helping and encouraging each offender through the process of reintegrating into society; and

WHEREAS, each probation, parole, and correctional officer plays a vital role in the success of an offender's reentry into his community; and

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, corrections services, to enhance public safety through the safe and secure incarceration of offenders and effective probation and parole supervision; and

WHEREAS, correctional officers of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections provide for the safety of staff and offenders by maintaining an organized and disciplined system of operations which enhance the stability of all programs provided by the department; and

WHEREAS, correctional officers also promote moral rehabilitation through encouraging program participation and providing an environment for offenders that enables positive behavior change; and

WHEREAS, the division of probation and parole of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections functions as a community services division and is comprised of twenty district offices located throughout the state and its headquarters located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, probation and parole officers are P.O.S.T.-certified officers who supervise adult offenders who are released to the community on probation, parole, diminution of sentence, home incarceration, medical furlough, or supervised release and those offenders who relocate to Louisiana from other states; and

WHEREAS, probation and parole officers ensure that offenders comply with the conditions of supervision, identify problems and solutions, make appropriate referrals, provide general counseling, and perform arrests as needed to protect public safety; and

WHEREAS, helping to ensure the successful reentry of these offenders, probation and parole officers visit offenders in their homes, in their workplaces, or at other locations in the community; and

WHEREAS, in addition, probation and parole officers provide investigative services to decision makers in the criminal justice system, including judges, the Board of Pardons and committee on parole, and the governor's office, and oversee the collection of victim restitution, supervision fees, and a variety of criminal justice fees.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create and establish the Louisiana Probation, Parole, and Correctional Officer Compensation Study Commission to study and examine the feasibility of providing a salary increase for Louisiana probation, parole, and correctional officers who play a vital role in achieving Louisiana's goals of reducing recidivism and successfully reintegrating offenders into society.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall be comprised of the following members:

- (1) The chairman of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice or his designee.
- (2) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary B or his designee.
- (3) The chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations or his designee.
- (4) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance or his designee.
- (5) The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections or his designee.
- (6) The director of state civil service or his designee.

(7) The director of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, division of probation and parole or his designee.

(8) The president of the Louisiana Fraternal Order of Police or his designee.

(9) The executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association or his designee.

(10) The executive director of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the commission shall serve without compensation and vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall meet as necessary and is authorized to request data, staff, and technical or administrative assistance from those entities that comprise the membership of the commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall submit a written report of its findings to the governor and the Louisiana Legislature by February 1, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall be abolished upon submission of the report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the appointing entities named in this Resolution.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE