

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 36

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

LEGISLATIVE AGCY/LAW INST: Requests a study and recommendations by the La. State Law Institute concerning the prospective use of the term "d/Deaf" in law

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana State Law Institute to study the prospective use of the  
3 term "d/Deaf" in law, and to report findings of the study in the form of  
4 recommendations to the legislature concerning the term.

5 WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes that language used to refer to  
6 persons with disabilities and other persons with exceptionalities shapes and reflects attitudes  
7 toward and perceptions of those persons by society; and

8 WHEREAS, through consideration of legislative instruments such as House Bill No.  
9 63 of the 2014 Regular Session and House Bill No. 253 of this 2017 Regular Session, the  
10 legislature has engaged in careful review and evaluation of terminology in Louisiana law  
11 referring to persons with disabilities; and

12 WHEREAS, the deaf community encompasses distinct cultures, the members of  
13 which self-identify with either the term "deaf" (lower case) or "Deaf" (capitalized); and

14 WHEREAS, "deaf" and "Deaf" are distinct in that the former term refers, generally,  
15 to persons who identify with people who have hearing ability, and who regard their own  
16 hearing loss solely in medical terms; while the latter, capitalized term refers to people who  
17 identify as culturally deaf, and whose life experiences are shaped primarily by deaf culture;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the combination term "d/Deaf" has emerged as an inclusive means of  
20 referring to these two groups within the deaf community; and

1           WHEREAS, proponents of wider use of "d/Deaf" in written language argue that the  
2 term is more than a linguistic expedient as it embodies both sense and reference and has a  
3 generally accepted definition; and

4           WHEREAS, like the law, language is a human creation which evolves to meet the  
5 needs of human society.

6           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
7 urge and request the Louisiana State Law Institute to study the prospective use of the term  
8 "d/Deaf" in law and to report findings of the study in the form of recommendations to the  
9 legislature concerning the term.

10           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Law Institute shall report  
11 findings and recommendations resulting from the study requested by this Resolution to the  
12 legislature no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the 2018 Regular Session.

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
14 director of the Louisiana State Law Institute and to the executive director and each member  
15 of the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf.

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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)]

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HCR 36 Original

2017 Regular Session

Smith

Requests the La. State Law Institute to study the prospective use of the term "d/Deaf" in law and to report recommendations concerning the term to the legislature.

Requests a report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than 30 days prior to the 2018 R.S.