

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 43

BY SENATORS WALSWORTH AND THOMPSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create and provide for the Louisiana Historical Archives Task Force to study the conditions, issues, needs, and problems relative to the preservation of the state's historical archives and records and to recommend any action or legislation the task force deems necessary or appropriate.

WHEREAS, the history of Louisiana stretches back centuries and its cultural heritage includes the original Native American inhabitants as well as the descendants of settlers from almost every nationality on earth who have contributed to the unique food, music, and art of the state; and

WHEREAS, emerging from this rich and varied history are treasures of print, visual, audio, and digital records of the many faces, lives, and experiences of the people of the state; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that such records be preserved so that future generations may know, understand, and celebrate Louisiana's important place in world history; and

WHEREAS, experts on archiving of historical records should evaluate the efforts, methods, and techniques that are currently being utilized and should evaluate the efforts that other states, museums, and archives are undertaking to preserve treasured historical records and should recommend an appropriate archiving system so they are readily accessible to the public; and

WHEREAS, the task force should continue the work of the Louisiana Historical Archives Task Force created by Senate Concurrent Resolution 117, which was terminated on March 1, 2018.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Louisiana Historical Archives Task Force to study the conditions, needs, issues, and problems relative to the preservation of precious print, visual, audio, and digital historical records and to recommend any action or legislation that the task force deems necessary or appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force created herein shall consist of the following seventeen members:

(1) Two members of the Senate appointed by the president, one who shall be designated by the president as the chairperson.

(2) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker.

(3) The lieutenant governor, or his designee.

(4) The secretary of state, or his designee.

(5) The secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, or his designee.

(6) The executive director of Preserve Louisiana, or his designee.

(7) The executive director of the Historic New Orleans Collection, or his designee.

(8) The secretary of the Smithsonian Institute, or his designee.

(9) The commissioner of higher education, or his designee.

(10) The president of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association, or his designee.

(11) The commissioner of administration, or his designee.

(12) The head of the Louisiana Research Collection at Tulane University.

(13) The president of the Southern University System, or his designee.

(14) A representative of the African American Heritage Museum.

(15) The executive director of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting such study, the task force shall study current technologies, methods, and policy in Louisiana and other states, and shall elicit views from experts in the fields of preservation, archiving, collecting, and storing of historical records and documents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of the constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the total membership shall constitute a quorum of the task force, and any official action taken by the task force shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may conduct such meetings at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall make a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, to the legislature no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2019 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this task force shall terminate on March 1, 2019.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES