

1 WHEREAS, with respect to such exceptional persons, best practices in law
2 enforcement include training on recognizing and understanding the behavior of those
3 persons, as well as on effective contact approaches that minimize risks to them and to
4 officers during law enforcement encounters; and

5 WHEREAS, Louisiana law, R.S. 40:2404.2(C), provides for training of law
6 enforcement officers on interacting with persons who have developmental disabilities; and

7 WHEREAS, a system that facilitates law enforcement professionals easily
8 ascertaining that a person has autism or a developmental disability would support greater
9 overall public safety; and

10 WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 84 of the 2019 Regular Session
11 requested the Louisiana Department of Health to study the feasibility of issuing a special
12 identification card to individuals with an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis; and

13 WHEREAS, the study that the Louisiana Department of Health produced in
14 accordance with that Resolution indicated it is not feasible for the department to issue such
15 identification cards because it has no processes currently in place within which that function
16 could be included; and

17 WHEREAS, the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) of the Federal Bureau
18 of Investigation is an electronic clearinghouse of data that nearly all criminal justice agencies
19 nationwide can access twenty-four hours per day, three hundred sixty-five days per year; and

20 WHEREAS, adding a category in the NCIC database for identifying persons as
21 having autism or other developmental disabilities could be an optimal solution to any
22 challenges that law enforcement agencies may face in interacting with this vulnerable
23 population.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
25 urge and request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services,
26 in collaboration with the office for citizens with developmental disabilities of the Louisiana
27 Department of Health, to conduct a study concerning the potential use of the National Crime
28 Information Center database for creating a voluntary registry of persons with autism and
29 other developmental disabilities for use by law enforcement professionals.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections
2 shall submit findings from the study called for in this Resolution in the form of a written
3 report to the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, the Senate Committee
4 on Judiciary B, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on
5 Health and Welfare, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library on or before
6 February 1, 2021.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
8 secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the secretary of the
9 Louisiana Department of Health.

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 53 Original

2020 Regular Session

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Requests the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services, in collaboration with the office for citizens with developmental disabilities of the La. Dept. of Health, to conduct a study concerning the potential use of the National Crime Information Center database for creating a voluntary registry of persons with autism and other developmental disabilities for use by law enforcement professionals.

Requires the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to submit findings from the study in a report to the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, the Senate Committee on Judiciary B, and the legislative committees on health and welfare on or before Feb. 21, 2021.