

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 53

BY REPRESENTATIVE STAGNI

EXCEPTIONAL PERSONS: Requests a study concerning a voluntary registry of persons with autism and other developmental disabilities for use by law enforcement professionals

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services,  
3 in collaboration with the office for citizens with developmental disabilities of the  
4 Louisiana Department of Health, to conduct a study concerning the potential use of  
5 the National Crime Information Center database for creating a voluntary registry of  
6 persons with autism and other developmental disabilities for use by law enforcement  
7 professionals and to report findings of the study to certain legislative committees.

8 WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana has a sincere concern for the health and  
9 well-being of persons with disabilities and intends that these persons and their families be  
10 afforded all opportunities for the best possible quality of life in this state; and

11 WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana supports our law enforcement agencies and  
12 the brave men and women who dedicate their professional lives as law enforcement officers  
13 to keeping our communities safe; and

14 WHEREAS, autism and other developmental disabilities are conditions that can  
15 cause problem behaviors and commonly affect a person's ability to communicate, their  
16 cognition, or both; and

17 WHEREAS, while performing their duties in protecting the public, law enforcement  
18 professionals may unexpectedly encounter or be asked to locate persons with autism or other  
19 developmental disabilities; and

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.

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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 53 Engrossed

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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.