2020 First Extraordinary Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28

BY SENATOR JACKSON

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT. Requests that the Department of Insurance study and report on approaches taken by other southern states to reduce automobile insurance premiums, report statistics obtained by the insurance fraud investigation unit, and advise as to ways to increase the number of automobile insurers writing policies in the state and to report that information to the legislative Task Force on Available and Affordable Automobile Insurance.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION		
2	To urge and request the Department of Insurance to study and report on approaches taken		
3	by other southern states to reduce auto insurance premiums, to report statistics		
4	related to insurance fraud compiled by the Louisiana Automobile Theft and		
5	Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority, and to advise the legislature as to any steps		
6	taken and any progress made by the department to increase the number of		
7	automobile insurers offering policies in Louisiana, and to create the legislative Task		
8	Force on Available and Affordable Automobile Insurance to provide a forum in		
9	which the department shall present its findings to the legislature and the public.		
10	WHEREAS, Louisiana residents continue to struggle to pay for auto insurance, as		
11	evidenced by Louisiana's ranking as the second most expensive state for automobile		
12	insurance in the nation; and		
13	WHEREAS, according to the Louisiana Department of Insurance, approximately		
14	fifteen percent of Louisiana drivers do not have insurance and forty percent have only the		
15	minimum policy; and		
16	WHEREAS, studies have reported that Louisiana residents often pay as much as fifty		
17	percent more than the national average for auto insurance; and		
18	WHEREAS, other southern states, including Arkansas, have recently taken action		

to lower auto insurance rates by reducing auto insurance fraud and investing in technical
 support to allow for real-time reporting on whether a driver actually has auto insurance or
 is uninsured; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas requires auto insurers to offer mandatory discounts, such as
a discount for college graduates and defensive driver discounts for those insureds fifty-five
years and older who have successfully completed a course approved by the Arkansas Office
of Driver Services; and

8 WHEREAS, legislation was filed in Maryland earlier this year, modeled after a 9 California program, that would have created the Lifeline Low-Cost Automobile Insurance 10 Program to offer certain low-cost auto insurance policies to certain residents of Maryland 11 in households with a gross annual household income not exceeding three hundred percent 12 of the federal poverty level and who met certain other requirements such as having good 13 driving records; and

WHEREAS, Florida requires pre-owned automobiles to go through vehicle pre-insurance inspection prior to obtaining automobile insurance, with the ultimate goals of preventing fraud and helping reduce the cost of automobile physical damage, collision, and comprehensive insurance coverage by accurately documenting each vehicle; and

WHEREAS, according to the Insurance Information Institute, forty-seven states including Louisiana have set up fraud bureaus or units to combat common fraudulent insurance practices including padding or inflating claims, misrepresenting facts on an insurance application, submitting claims for injuries or damage that never occurred, and staging accidents; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention
Authority is statutorily created to assist the department of insurance in investigating fraud
and reporting any fraud found to law enforcement authorities; and

WHEREAS, it would assist the legislature in its policy-making role for the department to study the statistics related to fraud apprehension by the Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority in comparison to the fraud units in other southern states and to report to the legislature those statistical findings; and

30 WHEREAS, considering that increased competition among auto insurance companies

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- in Louisiana should lower rates, the legislature would be further assisted by the department
 advising and reporting on any steps taken and any progress made to increase the number of
 automobile insurers offering auto insurance policies in Louisiana; and
- WHEREAS, it would assist Louisiana residents in lowering their individual automobile insurance rates for the department to link or attach prominently to the department's website a document similar to the "Nine Ways to Lower Your Auto Insurance Costs" by the Insurance Information Institute; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the legislature desires to form a task force to study available and 9 affordable automobile insurance and to provide a forum for the department to present its 10 findings to the legislature and to the public.
- 11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 12 urge and request the Department of Insurance to study and report to the legislature on 13 approaches taken by other southern states to reduce auto insurance premiums, to report the 14 statistics related to insurance fraud compiled by the Louisiana Automobile Theft and 15 Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority, and to advise and report on any steps taken and any 16 progress made by the department to increase the number of automobile insurers offering auto 17 insurance policies in Louisiana.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby creates the Task Force on Affordable Automobile Insurance to study the availability of affordable automobile insurance and to provide a forum for the Department of Insurance to present the results of the studies and content of the requested reports pursuant to this Resolution to the legislature and to the public.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be comprised of the
 following members:
- 25 (1) Two senators appointed by the president of the Senate, who shall designate one
 26 senator to serve as cochairman.
- 27 (2) Two representatives appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives
 28 who shall designate one representative to serve as cochairman.
- 29 (3) The commissioner of insurance, or his designee.
- 30 (4) The colonel of the state police, or his designee.

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- 1 (5) One member appointed by the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry. 2 (6) One member appointed by the Louisiana Chapter of the American Federation of 3 Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations. 4 (7) Five members appointed by each of the five automobile insurance companies that 5 wrote the most automobile insurance in Louisiana in the last calendar year, as reported by the Department of Insurance. 6 7 (8) One member appointed by the Louisiana Association of Justice. 8 (9) The governor, or his designee. 9 (10) One member who is a Louisiana driver who purchases Louisiana private 10 passenger automobile insurance, appointed by the Louisiana Chapter of the American 11 Association of Retired Persons. 12 (11) One member who is a Louisiana driver who purchases Louisiana private 13 passenger automobile insurance, appointed by Together Louisiana. 14 (12) One member who is a Louisiana driver who purchases Louisiana private 15 passenger automobile insurance, appointed by the Public Affairs Research Council of 16 Louisiana. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that task force members shall serve without 17 18 compensation or reimbursement of expenses other than what may be afforded by their 19 appointing authorities, and legislative members of the task force shall receive the same per 20 diem and reimbursement of travel expenses as provided for attendance at legislative 21 committee meetings under the rules of the respective house in which they serve. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the names of the appointees to the task force 22 23 shall be submitted to the president of the Senate by August 14, 2020. 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the membership of the task force 25 constitutes a quorum and that if all task force members have not been appointed by September 1, 2020, a majority of the appointed membership shall constitute a quorum until 26 27 additional appointments are made. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senator designated as a cochairman shall 28 convene the first meeting of the task force no later than September 8, 2020. 29
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall, by December 15, 2021,

1	make recommendations to the House Committee on Insurance and Senate Committee on			
2	Insurance for legislation that may make affordable automobile insurance more widely			
3	available to Louisiana drivers.			
4	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force will terminate on			
5	December 31, 2021.			
6	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the			
7	Commissioner of Insurance.			

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Carla S. Roberts.

	DIGEST	
SCR 28 Original	2020 First Extraordinary Session	Jackson

Requests the Dept. of Insurance to do all of the following:

- (1) Study and report to the legislature on approaches taken by other southern states to reduce auto insurance premiums.
- (2) Advise the legislature as to the statistics related to insurance fraud compiled by the Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority.
- (3) Advise and report on any steps taken and any progress made by the department to increase the number of automobile insurers offering auto insurance policies in Louisiana.

Creates the Task Force on Affordable Automobile Insurance to study the availability of affordable automobile insurance and to provide a forum for the Dept. of Insurance to present its findings to the legislature and to the public.

Provides that the task force will terminate on December 31, 2021.