

1 WHEREAS, the non-unanimous jury verdict law does not serve to give an
2 opportunity to those whose guilt was convincingly established, but to ensure that the
3 innocent are afforded justice; and

4 WHEREAS, in order to ensure an objective, hindsight-based review of all cases of
5 individuals still incarcerated as a result of non-unanimous jury verdicts, qualified legal
6 professionals should be employed to review the cases of individuals incarcerated under the
7 former non-unanimous jury verdict law.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
9 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Equal Justice Task Force for the purpose of
10 formulating a method that will enable the judicial system of Louisiana and the Department
11 of Corrections to ensure the equal application of laws as such laws relate to individuals who
12 may have been subjected to a miscarriage of justice due to Louisiana's non-unanimous jury
13 verdict law.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the primary objective of the task force is to
15 deliberate all applicable facts, circumstances, policies, and procedures that may have
16 resulted in consequences of injustice for the specific purpose of recommending plausible
17 remedies for miscarriages of justice that are determined to have resulted from non-
18 unanimous jury verdicts occurring prior to January 1, 2019.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be comprised of the
20 following members:

- 21 (1) Representative Randal L. Gaines.
- 22 (2) Representative Jason Hughes.
- 23 (3) Representative Sherman Q. Mack.
- 24 (4) Representative Charles Owen.
- 25 (5) Representative Kathy Edmonston.
- 26 (6) Representative Edmond Jordan.
- 27 (7) Representative Sam Jenkins.
- 28 (8) A representative from the Louisiana District Attorneys Association.
- 29 (9) A representative from the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.

1 (10) A representative from the division of probation and parole of the Department
2 of Public Safety and Corrections.

3 (11) A representative from the Promise of Justice Initiative.

4 (12) A representative from the Louisiana Public Defender Board.

5 (13) A representative from Voices of Innocent Citizens Empowered, Incorporated.

6 (14) A representative from Voice of the Experienced.

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

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the initial meeting of the task force shall be
11 called by the chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary. At the first meeting, the task
12 force shall elect a chair. The first meeting shall take place no later than October 18, 2021.
13 The Louisiana House of Representatives shall provide staff support.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of this task force shall serve without
15 compensation.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the meetings of the task force shall take place
17 at the Louisiana state capitol, or upon a majority vote of the members such meetings may
18 be conducted by video conference where circumstances necessitate meeting in that manner.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall meet as necessary and shall
20 report its findings to the legislature not later than February 15, 2022, and shall terminate
21 upon the date of such report.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
23 executive director of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, the executive director of
24 the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and
25 Corrections, the executive director of the Promise of Justice Initiative, the chairman of the
26 Louisiana Public Defender Board, the director of Voices of Innocent Citizens Empowered,
27 Incorporated, and the executive director of Voice of the Experienced.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the INSERT shall submit one print copy and one
29 electronic copy of any report produced pursuant to this Resolution to the David R. Poynter
30 Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

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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2021 Regular Session

Gaines

Creates the Equal Justice Task Force to study the effects of the non-unanimous jury verdict law in Louisiana.