

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 99

BY REPRESENTATIVE FONTENOT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request Louisiana State University and the office of state fire marshal to work together to enter into the necessary agreements to enhance the training of firefighters to reduce the number of fatalities in the state of Louisiana, reduce the costs of fire prevention and fire suppression, and reduce the costs associated with property damage caused by fire or explosion.

WHEREAS, the hazards of fire explosion and panic arising from the threat of fire and explosion will continue to impact the lives of Louisiana citizens, with seventy-seven lives being lost in 2020 and property damage and fire suppression costs estimated to be in the tens of millions; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the government agencies and associations, entrusted with the protection of lives and property from fire and explosion or the threat thereof, and the training of our career and volunteer emergency service personnel, related to fire prevention, fire suppression, and arson and fire investigation, come together to develop strategies for providing enhanced and advanced training and training programs; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 40:1541 officially designates Louisiana State University as the official agency of the state to conduct training for municipal and industrial firefighters; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 40:1541 creates the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Commission, composed mainly of members of the fire service, to provide advice, guidance, and recommendations to Louisiana State University related to matters, including but not limited to aspects of the conduct of fire and emergency training and training programs, prioritization of training, personnel; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 40:1563 et seq. mandates the state fire marshal take all steps necessary and proper to protect life and property from the hazards of fire and of panic which

may arise from fire, the threat of fire, or explosion to include fire prevention, arson and fire investigation, and emergency response; and

WHEREAS, the office of state fire marshal conducts internal and external training related to fire prevention, life safety inspection, and arson and fire investigation; and

WHEREAS, modern day business practices, as well as accountability, both with funds and personnel, are paramount, and the collaborative sharing of resources bring about improved public safety; and

WHEREAS, it is believed that both Louisiana State University and the office of state fire marshal are both fully committed to creating and improving firefighter and emergency training in the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, it is believed that these collaborative efforts between Louisiana State University and the office of state fire marshal should ultimately result in the statutory obligation for firefighter and emergency training being transferred from Louisiana State University to the office of state fire marshal.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request that Louisiana State University and the office of state fire marshal, working together, enter into the necessary agreements to enhance the training of firefighters to reduce the number of fatalities in the state of Louisiana, reduce the costs of fire prevention and fire suppression, and reduce the costs associated with property damage caused by fire or explosion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Commission and the state fire marshal.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE