

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

BY REPRESENTATIVE STEFANSKI

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Recognizes March 29, 2022, as Civil Legal Aid Day at the state capitol

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To recognize Tuesday, March 29, 2022, as Civil Legal Aid Day at the state capitol.

3 WHEREAS, even though the outcome of civil legal matters often results in life-
4 altering consequences, indigent citizens have no right to counsel in civil matters; and

5 WHEREAS, a basic tenet of a just society is the provision of equal access to legal
6 services, a tenet that is essential to the achievement of fairness in our civil justice system;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, a foundation of our legal system is access to legal services, regardless
9 of a citizen's ability to pay; and

10 WHEREAS, at 20%, Louisiana's poverty rate is among the nation's highest, and an
11 estimated 230,000 poor Louisiana citizens will need legal services each year; and

12 WHEREAS, in 2021, the Acadiana Legal Service Corporation and the Southeast
13 Louisiana Legal Services Corporation helped 38,278 people to achieve increased access to
14 safety, employment, and security; and

15 WHEREAS, the Acadiana Legal Service Corporation and the Southeast Louisiana
16 Legal Service Corporation provide legal representation in merited cases to Louisiana's poor
17 and work to ensure equal access and justice for all; and

18 WHEREAS, these organizations help historically disadvantaged constituents with
19 legal matters, including veterans seeking service benefits, victims of domestic violence
20 seeking protection against abusers, senior citizens fighting consumer fraud, homeowners
21 opposing unlawful foreclosure, and parents seeking child support; and

1 WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of all stakeholders in Louisiana's justice system
2 to ensure access to legal services; and

3 WHEREAS, each year, Louisiana attorneys provide hundreds of thousands of hours
4 in volunteer legal services; and

5 WHEREAS, a study commissioned by the Louisiana Bar Foundation found that the
6 total net social return on investment for Louisiana's legal aid programs during the 2020 fiscal
7 year was 918%, so that for every dollar the state invests in Louisiana's civil legal aid
8 providers, these programs deliver \$9.18 in immediate and long-term financial benefits; and

9 WHEREAS, investment in civil legal aid benefits families, schools, businesses,
10 government agencies, and the state as a whole.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
12 recognize Tuesday, March 29, 2022, as Civil Legal Aid Day at the state capitol and does
13 hereby extend sincere thanks to the caring professionals who provide civil legal aid to the
14 citizens of Louisiana.

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 31 Original

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