

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 167

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To create and provide for the Study Commission on Deterring Sex Offenses Against Children.

WHEREAS, young girls and boys are often victims of sex offenses which may cause lifelong mental health issues and trauma and may contribute to those victims becoming sex offenders themselves; and

WHEREAS, offenders are sometimes family members or close relatives of the child-victim or other persons in positions of trust; and

WHEREAS, it is of paramount importance to determine ways in which to deter these offenses against our most vulnerable citizens by means both conventional and unconventional; and

WHEREAS, surgical castration, among other means and methods, may serve as a deterrent for those offenders convicted of sex offenses where the victim is a child under the age of thirteen, as well as for those who would seek to harm our children in the future.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish the Study Commission on Deterring Sex Offenses Against Children to study the best practices to deter sex offenders whose victims are under the age of thirteen from re-offending, and to make any recommendations that the commission deems necessary or appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study commission shall consist of the following members:

(1) The senator for Senate District 15, who shall serve as chairperson of the study commission.

(2) The chairperson of the House Committee of Administration of Criminal Justice, or his designee.

(3) The executive director of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, or his

designee.

(4) The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, or his designee.

(5) The state public defender, or his designee.

(6) A representative of the Department of Health, designated by the secretary of the department.

(7) A representative of Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response, designated by the president of the organization.

(8) A representative of Voice of the Experienced, designated by the executive director.

(9) A representative of the Promise of Justice Initiative, designated by the president of the board of directors.

(10) A representative of the Louisiana Center for Children's Rights, designated by the board of directors.

(11) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services, or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit the names of designees to the study commission to the district office for the senator for Senate District 15 no later than July 1, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study commission may conduct such meetings at such times it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study commission shall convene for its first meeting no later than August 1, 2022, at the call of the senator for Senate District 15, and at the first meeting, the members shall elect a chairman and other officers as the study commission may deem appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the study commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the study commission shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the study commission shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study commission shall receive staff support from the district office of the senator for Senate District 15 or, at the discretion of the study commission members, by the staff of one or more of the entities from which the study commission's membership is designated or appointed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study commission shall make a written report of its finding and recommendations, together with specific proposal for legislation, to the Senate Committee on Judiciary C and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than March 15, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study commission shall terminate on the date of the submission of its report or March 15, 2023, whichever occurs first.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chair of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, the State Public Defender Board, the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response, the Louisiana Center for Children's Rights, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Health, the Voice of the Experienced, and the Promise of Justice Initiative.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE