

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 254

BY REPRESENTATIVE IVEY

LEGISLATIVE POWERS: Requests House standing committees to study the provisions of the state constitution and to make recommendations for revisions

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request each standing committee of the House of Representatives to study the  
3 provisions of the Constitution of Louisiana within the jurisdiction of the committee  
4 and to make recommendations regarding revisions to those provisions to the House  
5 of Representatives no later than March 15, 2023.

6 WHEREAS, it has been more than forty-seven years since the Constitution of  
7 Louisiana became effective at midnight on December 31, 1974, and during these years the  
8 document which constitutes the state's fundamental law has been amended some two  
9 hundred three times; and

10 WHEREAS, the need to address a number of key policy areas that require  
11 constitutional change has become apparent, including such matters as the state's tax structure  
12 and budgetary practices that hamper the state's economic growth and competitiveness as well  
13 as the quality of life of Louisiana residents; the prioritization of expenditures through the  
14 dedication of state revenues and the resulting inability of the legislature to allocate resources  
15 to other priorities, particularly for the needs of health care and higher education; the fiscal  
16 restraints on local governments that dramatically limit their authority to meet fiscal and  
17 budgetary demands; and other matters; and

18 WHEREAS, the constitution contains many provisions that prohibit or restrict the  
19 legislature in effectively addressing state and constituent needs, and also includes extensive  
20 provisions that are so detailed as to be statutory rather than constitutional in nature and, as  
21 a result, require further constitutional amendment when any change is needed; and

1           WHEREAS, a serious analysis of the state constitution is necessary to address the  
2 state's critical needs; to undertake an in-depth consideration of reform proposals; and to craft  
3 provisions that allow for flexibility and innovation in legislative solutions to problems of the  
4 present and the future, and the standing committees of the legislature are uniquely positioned  
5 to recognize issues and recommend appropriate and necessary revisions.

6           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
7 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request each standing committee of the House  
8 of Representatives to study the provisions of the Constitution of Louisiana within the  
9 jurisdiction of the committee, to report its activities regarding those provisions, and to  
10 include in such report its analysis of those provisions to the House of Representatives, no  
11 later than March 15, 2023.

12           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that House of Representatives does hereby request  
13 each standing committee to specifically include in its report all of the following information:

14           (1) Identification of the provisions of the constitution within its purview that  
15 constitute fundamental law.

16           (2) Identification of language in the provisions of the constitution within its purview  
17 that is not considered fundamental law and that either from a best practice or comparative  
18 perspective is unusual for a constitution or is most commonly statutory in nature.

19           (3) Identification of language in the provisions of the constitution within its purview  
20 that is legally unnecessary, redundant, or obsolete.

21           (4) Identification of language in the provisions of the constitution within its purview  
22 that is transitional in nature and which should either be removed or updated.

23           (5) Identification of language in the provisions of the constitution within its purview  
24 that, from an organizational or structural perspective, should either be placed elsewhere in  
25 the constitution or reworded.

26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives does hereby  
27 request the clerk of the House of Representatives to review and assign each provision of the  
28 Constitution of Louisiana to the appropriate standing committee of the House of  
29 Representatives no later than fifteen days after the adoption of this Resolution.

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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HR 254 Original

2022 Regular Session

Ivey

Requests each standing committee of the House of Representatives to study the provisions of the Constitution of La. within the jurisdiction of the committee and to report and make recommendations thereon to the House of Representatives no later than March 15, 2023.