

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 168

BY REPRESENTATIVES SEABAUGH AND GAROFALO

CRIME: Creates a task force to study the effects of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative and the rise of violent crime in Louisiana

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create the Louisiana Violent Crime Task Force to study and evaluate recent legislative  
3 reforms to the Louisiana criminal justice system and the effects of such reforms on  
4 public safety and crime in Louisiana and to propose future legislation to address and  
5 improve public safety and reduce crime in Louisiana.

6 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana, through legislative efforts, underwent significant  
7 criminal justice reform measures in 2016 and 2017; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2016, Louisiana enacted the "Raise the Age" legislation which  
9 resulted in seventeen-year-olds being transferred from the adult criminal justice system to  
10 the juvenile justice system; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2017, Louisiana enacted Act Nos. 260, 261, 262, 264, 277, 280, 281,  
12 and 282 which included the stated goals of reducing the Louisiana prison population and  
13 reducing the financial burdens placed upon convicted offenders; and

14 WHEREAS, the Louisiana prison population dropped substantially since the  
15 effective date of criminal justice reforms; and

16 WHEREAS, the Louisiana incarceration rate has been reduced substantially and the  
17 reduction has outpaced the national trends; and

18 WHEREAS, these recent reforms have resulted in tens of thousands of convicted  
19 felons being returned to the community without access to significant recidivism reduction  
20 programming; and

21 WHEREAS, these recent reforms also included significant obstacles to revoking the  
22 probation of felony offenders, which has resulted in significant reductions in the number of  
23 offenders whose probation has actually been revoked; and

1           WHEREAS, on November 1, 2017, the state of Louisiana released one thousand nine  
2 hundred forty-eight offenders early as the direct result of these criminal justice reforms; and

3           WHEREAS, there has been little appreciable reduction in recidivism in spite of the  
4 revocation obstacles, the removal of the seventeen-year-old population from the criminal  
5 justice system, and the substantial amounts dedicated to reducing recidivism; and

6           WHEREAS, juvenile crime and particularly violent juvenile crime have negatively  
7 impacted public safety and endangered our communities at an alarming rate; and

8           WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has experienced a rapid and significant rise in  
9 violent crime and homicides since these criminal justice reforms.

10          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
11 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Louisiana Violent Crime Task Force to study  
12 and evaluate recent legislative reforms to the Louisiana criminal justice system and the  
13 effects of such reforms on public safety and crime in Louisiana and to propose future  
14 legislation to address and improve public safety and reduce crime in Louisiana.

15          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Violent Crime Task Force shall  
16 be composed of the following members:

17           (1) The attorney general of Louisiana, or his designee, who shall serve as chairman.

18           (2) Five members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the  
19 House of Representatives.

20           (3) Five members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate.

21           (4) The executive director of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, or his  
22 designee.

23           (5) The executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, or his designee.

24           (6) The state public defender, or his designee.

25           (7) The executive director of the Louisiana Chiefs of Police Association, or his  
26 designee.

27           (8) The executive director of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association, or his  
28 designee.

29           (9) A representative of the United Way of Southeast Louisiana appointed by the  
30 speaker of the House of Representatives.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the membership of the task force  
2 shall constitute a quorum. The task force shall meet at the call of the chair or upon an  
3 affirmative vote of a majority of the members. All members shall be notified in writing of  
4 all meetings at least five days before the date on which a meeting of the task force is  
5 scheduled.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the duties of the task force shall include, but not  
7 be limited to, all of the following:

8 (1) Gather and evaluate data and information from relevant stakeholders regarding  
9 the various aspects of the criminal justice system in Louisiana before and after the criminal  
10 justice reforms, including arrests, charges, prosecutions, sentences, probation and parole  
11 activity, incarceration, and recidivism.

12 (2) Evaluate and develop a plan of action to address areas of concern identified  
13 through the gathering and evaluation of criminal justice data and information.

14 (3) Recommend any legislation necessary for the 2024 Regular Session of the  
15 Legislature to accomplish all identified goals of true criminal justice reform that reduces  
16 crime and recidivism in Louisiana while improving public safety and strengthening our  
17 communities.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may request and collect relevant  
19 and necessary data and information to accomplish its purposes from any and all state and  
20 local government agencies, including courts.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the entities from which such information and  
22 data is requested may, to the extent feasible, provide such information and data to the task  
23 force at no cost.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of the attorney general shall provide  
25 staff support to the task force.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall prepare and submit a report  
27 of its findings and policy recommendations to the speaker of the House of Representatives  
28 and the president of the Senate no later than December 31, 2023, and any further reports or  
29 recommendations thereafter as requested by the legislature or as advised by the task force.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to each  
2 of the task force members and the appointing entities provided in this Resolution.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one print copy and one electronic copy of any  
4 report produced pursuant to this Resolution shall be submitted to the David R. Poynter  
5 Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

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#### 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 168 Reengrossed

2023 Regular Session

Seabaugh

Creates the La. Violent Crime Task Force to study and evaluate recent legislative reforms to the La. criminal justice system and to report its findings to the legislature no later than Dec. 31, 2023.

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original resolution:

1. Add a member of the House of Representatives to the task force, appointed by the speaker from a list of names submitted by the clerks of Caddo Parish, East Baton Rouge Parish, and Orleans Parish.
2. Add a member of the Senate to the task force, appointed by the president from a list of names submitted by the clerks of Caddo Parish, East Baton Rouge Parish, and Orleans Parish.

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the engrossed resolution:

1. Remove provision for nomination of legislator members.
2. Add the executive director of the La. Chiefs of Police Assoc., the executive director of the La. Clerks of Court Assoc., and a representative of the United Way of Southeast La. appointed by the speaker to the membership of the task force.