

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 168

BY REPRESENTATIVES SEABAUGH, GAROFALO, AND THOMPSON

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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felony offenders, which has resulted in significant reductions in the number of offenders whose probation has actually been revoked; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (1) The attorney general of Louisiana, or his designee, who shall serve as chairman.
- (2) Five members of the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (3) The executive director of the Louisiana Board of Pardons and Committee on Parole, or his designee.
- (4) The executive director of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, or his designee.
- (5) The executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, or his designee.
- (6) The state public defender, or his designee.
- (7) The executive director of the Louisiana Chiefs of Police Association, or his designee.
- (8) The state director of Louisiana Right on Crime, or his designee.
- (9) A representative of the United Way of Southeast Louisiana appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES