

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40

BY REPRESENTATIVE BOYD

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create and establish the Judicial Security Task Force to identify minimum requirements for courthouse safety, to determine the minimum number of security officers that should be present in each type of judicial proceeding in a circuit or district court, to determine the minimum qualifications for security officers, to determine the minimum standards for secure entry and exit of judicial officers from court facilities, including minimum standards for secure parking and, if such parking is not connected to the courthouse, secure transit between parking and the courthouse, to determine the minimum standards for safe public areas of courthouses, including for the protection of judicial officers who are required to enter public areas of the courthouse in the performance of their duties, to identify physical security deficiencies that currently exist in courthouses and develop a plan to address these deficiencies, and to report its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Judiciary and the Senate Committee on Judiciary B no later than February 1, 2025.

WHEREAS, protecting the safety and security of judicial officers throughout Louisiana and the United States has become an issue of critical importance due to threats, assaults, and murders of judicial officers and their family members; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to bolster efforts to protect the judiciary and safeguard the personal information of judges and their immediate families; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2021, after an aggrieved litigant murdered the only son of U.S. District Judge Esther Salas at her personal residence; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, an increasing number of judges have been threatened for carrying out their critical work of administering justice; and

WHEREAS, personal information about judges and their families, including home addresses, is easily found online; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to find the appropriate balance between the safety of judges and their families and the importance of transparency and accountability in the judiciary.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby acknowledge these increasing threats to judicial officers and seeks to ensure the protection, safety, and security of judicial officers and their families and establish the Judicial Security Task Force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) The chief justice of the supreme court, or his designee.
- (2) The chair of the Louisiana Conference of Court of Appeal Judges, or his designee.
- (3) The president of the Louisiana District Judges Association, or his designee.
- (4) The president of the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, or his designee.
- (5) The president of the Louisiana City Court Judges Association, or his designee.
- (6) Three members of parish leadership, or their designees, from parishes with varying density populations, appointed by the governor.
- (7) One member of the Louisiana Senate, appointed by the president of the Senate.
- (8) One member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (9) Three sheriffs, or their designees, from parishes with varying density populations, appointed by the governor.
- (10) The superintendent of Louisiana State Police, or his designee.
- (11) Three chiefs of police, or their designees, from parishes with varying density populations, appointed by the governor.
- (12) A magistrate from a district court, appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court.
- (13) The president of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association.

(14) One bailiff of a district court, appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the total membership shall constitute a quorum of the task force and any official action by the task force shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the governor, the chief justice of the supreme court, the chair of the Louisiana Conference of Court of Appeals Judges, the president of the Louisiana District Judges Association, the president of the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the president of the Louisiana City Court Judges Association, the superintendent of the Louisiana State Police, the chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary, the president of the Senate, and the speaker of the House of Representatives, and that the task force established pursuant to this Resolution report its findings and recommendations to the legislature on or before February 1, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force established pursuant to this Resolution shall submit one print copy and one electronic copy of any report produced pursuant to this Resolution 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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE