

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

BY SENATOR LONG

COMMITTEE STUDIES. Creates the Joint Human Trafficking Study Commission.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create and provide for the Joint Human Trafficking Study Commission to study the
3 conditions, needs, issues, and problems relative to human trafficking in Louisiana
4 and to recommend any action or legislation that the commission deems necessary or
5 appropriate.

6 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana is home to numerous victims of human
7 trafficking, which includes those who have been forced into labor and sexual servitude; and

8 WHEREAS, according to data from the United States Department of State, an
9 estimated six-hundred thousand to eight-hundred twenty thousand men, women, and children
10 are trafficked across international borders each year, and of those, approximately eighty
11 percent are women and girls and up to fifty percent are minors; and

12 WHEREAS, studies have identified more than one hundred minors as victims of sex
13 trafficking in the Baton Rouge and New Orleans metro areas alone between 2006 and 2008;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, another one hundred forty victims of sex trafficking, mostly from the
16 Baton Rouge and New Orleans metro areas, have been identified since 2009; and

17 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has the highest rate of child homelessness of the
18 fifty states, and studies show that thirty percent of homeless shelter youth and seventy

1 percent of street youth are victims of commercial sexual exploitation; and

2 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has significantly improved its criminal justice
3 system response to the crime of human trafficking through formation of the Louisiana
4 Human Trafficking Task Force and the passage of Act No. 187 of the 2005 Regular Session
5 and Act No. 154 of the 2012 Regular Session, as well as other legislation; and

6 WHEREAS, although the state of Louisiana provides some services for child and
7 adult victims of sexual exploitation, a comprehensive system of services for all victims of
8 human trafficking is needed to enable all individuals who have been forced into labor and
9 sexual servitude to recover from this exploitation; and

10 WHEREAS, experts on human trafficking and victim services should evaluate
11 models of victim services from other states to recommend an appropriate framework for the
12 state of Louisiana.

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby creates
14 the Joint Human Trafficking Study Commission to study the conditions, needs, issues, and
15 problems relative to human trafficking in Louisiana and to recommend any action or
16 legislation that the commission deems necessary or appropriate.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission created herein shall consist of
18 the following fifteen members:

19 (1) Three members of the Senate appointed by the president, or their designees,
20 one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, and one of whom shall
21 be designated by the president as co-chairperson.

22 (2) Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker,
23 or their designees, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, and
24 one of whom shall be designated by the speaker as co-chairperson.

25 (3) The executive director of the Louisiana Human Trafficking Task Force, or
26 his designee.

27 (4) A sheriff appointed by the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, or his designee.

28 (5) A local police chief appointed by the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of
29 Police, or his designee.

30 (6) A district attorney appointed by the Louisiana District Attorneys Association,

1 or his designee.

2 (7) A juvenile court judge appointed by the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and
3 Family Court Judges, or his designee.

4 (8) A district court judge appointed by the Louisiana District Judges Association,
5 or his designee.

6 (9) A public defender appointed by the Louisiana Public Defender Board, or his
7 designee.

8 (10) An individual with expertise in advocacy for children who are sexually
9 exploited, appointed by the executive director of the Children's Cabinet in the
10 office of the governor, or his designee.

11 (11) An individual with expertise in advocacy for adult victims of human
12 trafficking appointed by Department of Children and Family Services, or his
13 designee.

14 The co-chairpersons shall call all meetings of the commission.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting such study, the commission shall
16 study current law and policy in Louisiana and other states, and shall elicit views from experts
17 in the fields of child welfare, juvenile justice, social work, mental health, and public health,
18 as well as input from child victims and adult survivors of commercial sexual exploitation.
19 The commission shall examine recent policy and social science reports on human trafficking,
20 including, but not limited to, its effects on individuals and community safety. The
21 commission shall review services that are currently available to victims of human trafficking
22 in Louisiana, as well as best practices for serving victims of human trafficking from other
23 jurisdictions.

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

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the total membership shall
28 constitute a quorum of the commission, and any official action by the commission shall
29 require an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission may conduct such meetings at

1 such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and
 2 effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this
 3 Resolution.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event that the commission makes a report
 5 of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such
 6 report shall be made to the legislature no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the
 7 2014 Regular Session.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this commission shall terminate on January 10,
 9 2014.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alden A. Clement, Jr.

DIGEST

Long

SCR No. 27

Creates the Joint Human Trafficking Study Commission to study the conditions, needs, issues, and problems relative to human trafficking in Louisiana and to recommend any action or legislation that the commission deems necessary or appropriate.

The commission consists of the following members, or their designees: (1) Three members of the Senate appointed by the president, one of whom is a member of the minority party, and one of whom serves as co-chairperson; (2) Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker, one of whom is a member of the minority party, and one of whom serves as co-chairperson; (3) The executive director of the La. Human Trafficking Task Force; (4) A sheriff appointed by the La. Sheriffs' Association; (5) A local police chief appointed by the La. Association of Chiefs of Police; (6) A district attorney appointed by the La. District Attorneys Association; (7) A juvenile court judge appointed by the La. Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; a district court judge appointed by the La. District Judges Association; (8) A public defender appointed by the La. Public Defender Board; (9) An individual with expertise in advocacy for children who are sexually exploited, appointed by the executive director of the Children's Cabinet in the governor's office; (10) An individual with expertise in advocacy for adult victims of human trafficking appointed by Dept. of Children and Family Services.

Further provides that the commission is to study current law and policy in Louisiana and other states; elicit views from experts in the fields of child welfare, juvenile justice, social work, mental health, and public health, as well as input from child victims and adult survivors of commercial sexual exploitation; examine recent policy and social science reports on human trafficking, including its effects on individuals and community safety; and review services that are currently available to victims of human trafficking in Louisiana, as well as best practices for serving victims of human trafficking from other jurisdictions.

Further provides that the commission may conduct such meetings at such times as 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 the commission. Further provides that members of the commission receive no additional compensation for their services on the commission except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of the constituent organizations.

Specifies that a majority of the total membership constitutes a quorum of the commission, and any official action by the commission requires an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting.

Further provides that any report of findings and recommendations is to be made no later than 60 days prior to the convening of the 2014 Regular Session.

Further provides that the commission terminates on January 10, 2014.