HLS 13RS-3694 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 164

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: Requests the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to meet and function as a joint committee to study the organization of state government with a focus on abolishing or merging one or more departments in order to provide for creation of the Department of Elderly Affairs as provided in House Bill No. 352 of the 2013 R.S.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To authorize and request the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and the	
Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to meet and function as a	
joint committee to study and make recommendations with respect to organization of	
the executive branch of state government with a focus on the abolition or merger of	
departments so as to provide for the creation of the Department of Elderly Affairs	
as provided in House Bill No. 352 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature.	
WHEREAS, House Bill No. 352 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature	
provides for creation of a Department of Elderly Affairs in the executive branch of state	
government to be responsible for the functions of the state that are designed to meet the	
needs of Louisiana residents sixty years of age or older, for planning, monitoring,	
coordination, and delivery of services to the elderly of the state, for developing a plan for	
efficient coordination of functions and services for the elderly and consolidation of such	
functions and services within the department with local administration by the parish	
voluntary councils on aging, and for making recommendations to the governor and to the	
legislature for needed improvements and additional resources to promote the welfare of the	
state's aging population; and	
WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 1 of the Constitution of Louisiana provides in part	
that "Except for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor, all offices, agencies, and	

1	other instrumentalities of the executive branch and their functions, powers, duties, and
2	responsibilities shall be allocated according to function within not more than twenty
3	departments" and further provides that "Reallocation of the functions, powers, and duties
4	of all departments, offices, agencies, and other instrumentalities of the executive branch,
5	except those functions, powers, duties, and responsibilities allocated by this constitution,
6	shall be as provided by law"; and
7	WHEREAS, the executive branch of state government currently is comprised of
8	twenty departments, and recognizing that creation of a new department would necessitate
9	the elimination of an existing department or a constitutional amendment authorizing an
10	additional department, House Bill No. 352 provides that the new Department of Elderly
11	Affairs becomes effective upon the effective date of the abolition of one or more of the
12	existing departments or upon the effective date of a constitutional amendment that authorizes
13	creation of an additional executive branch department, whichever date is earlier; and
14	WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes that there is a need to create a Department of
15	Elderly Affairs to address more effectively the needs of this important and growing segment
16	of the state's population, that efficiencies and budgetary savings may be realized by the
17	merger of existing departments of state government, and that providing for the organization
18	of the executive branch by law is a constitutional responsibility of the legislature.
19	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
20	authorize and request the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and the
21	Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to meet and function as a joint
22	committee to study and make recommendations with respect to organization of the executive
23	branch of state government with a focus on the abolition or merger of departments so as to
24	provide for the creation of the Department of Elderly Affairs as provided in House Bill No.
25	352 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature.
26	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint committee shall make such studies as
27	it shall find necessary or appropriate to carry out its purposes; that for the purposes of
28	conducting such study, the committee may call upon any department or agency of the state
29	for information and assistance, and all such agencies and departments shall cooperate with

- 1 the committee, and that the committee may request and utilize the assistance of any and all
- 2 public and private sources.
- 3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint committee shall report its findings and
- 4 recommendations to the legislature not later than sixty days prior to the convening of the
- 5 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

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)]

Harrison HCR No. 164

Authorizes and requests the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to meet and function as a joint committee to study and make recommendations with respect to organization of the executive branch of state government with a focus on the abolition or merger of departments so as to provide for the creation of the Department of Elderly Affairs as provided in House Bill No. 352 of the 2013 R.S. Authorizes the committee to request and receive information and assistance from all departments and agencies of state government. Provides for a report of study findings and recommendations at least 60 days prior to the 2014 R.S.