

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 179

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

WEAPONS/FIREARMS: Creates the Firearm Safety Task Force

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To establish the Firearm Safety Task Force to study and make recommendations on actions
3 necessary to prevent firearm violence and firearm accidents and to encourage
4 responsible firearm ownership practices among Louisiana's citizens.

5 WHEREAS, Article I, Section 11 of the Constitution of Louisiana guarantees the
6 fundamental right of Louisiana citizens to keep and bear arms which shall not be infringed;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has a compelling interest in protecting the citizens
9 of this state; and

10 WHEREAS, ensuring the safe and effective use of firearms is a responsibility which
11 is of paramount importance; and

12 WHEREAS, Louisiana, like many states, has a high crime rate and the state is
13 adversely affected by firearm violence; and

14 WHEREAS, Louisiana has a large population of firearm owners; and

15 WHEREAS, Louisiana has significant rural and urban populations, and both are
16 affected by firearm violence; and

17 WHEREAS, public policy is best shaped by bringing together diverse viewpoints and
18 finding common ground.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana shall establish
20 the Firearm Safety Task Force to study public safety, public protection, and firearm safety.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall comprehensively investigate
2 the causes and costs of firearm violence and firearm accidents in Louisiana. The task force
3 shall investigate relevant contributing factors, including but not limited to:

4 (1) The current state of regulation of firearm ownership by the mentally ill.

5 (2) The utility and safety issues posed by various types of weapons in use in
6 Louisiana, including handguns, shotguns, and various types of rifles.

7 (3) The potential costs and benefits of a waiting period for all firearm purchases in
8 Louisiana.

9 (4) The potential costs and benefits of requiring background checks for all firearm
10 purchases in Louisiana.

11 (5) The potential costs and benefits of allowing local governments to regulate
12 firearms in order to address local needs.

13 (6) An evaluation of the impact of a culture of violence on the citizens of Louisiana.

14 (7) The availability of so-called junk firearms or "Saturday night specials".

15 (8) The circumstances and prevalence of violent crimes against police officers.

16 (9) An analysis of existing data on the use of firearms in violent crimes in the state
17 of Louisiana, including:

18 (a) The type of firearm involved.

19 (b) Whether it was fired.

20 (c) Whether injuries or fatalities resulted.

21 (d) Whether the firearm was owned by the perpetrator, by an intended victim, or by
22 another party.

23 (e) The differences in the use of firearms in violent crimes in urban and rural areas.

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

26 (1) One member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the
27 House of Representatives and designated to serve as co-chair.

28 (2) One member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate and
29 designated to serve as co-chair.

30 (3) One representative from the Louisiana Chapter of the National Rifle Association.

1 (4) The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections or his
2 designee.

3 (5) The federal-state coordinator for the Occupational Safety and Health Program
4 within the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

5 (6) One representative of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.

6 (7) One representative of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

7 (8) One representative of the Office of the Governor.

8 (9) One representative of the Louisiana Sheriff's Association.

9 (10) One representative of the Louisiana Board of Emergency Medical Services.

10 (11) One physician representative of the Louisiana Hospital Association.

11 (12) One representative of the office of behavioral health of the Department of
12 Health and Hospitals.

13 (13) One representative of the office of public health of the Department of Health
14 and Hospitals.

15 (14) Two representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, including one
16 associated with processing federal firearms background checks, chosen by the Special Agent
17 in Charge of the New Orleans Division.

18 (15) One representative of the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops.

19 (16) One representative of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of
20 Social Workers.

21 (17) One representative of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Alliance for Mental
22 Illness.

23 (18) One representative of the Coalition for Louisiana Progress.

24 (19) One representative of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this task force shall submit
26 recommendations to the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice and the
27 Senate Committee on Judiciary C no later than January 15, 2016.

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)]

HCR 179 Original

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James

Creates the Firearm Safety Task Force to study and make recommendations on actions necessary to prevent firearm violence and firearm accidents and to encourage responsible firearm ownership practices among Louisiana's citizens, and to report its findings to the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice and the Senate Committee on Judiciary C no later than Jan. 15, 2016.