

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 593

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to study the development of a pilot program to assist former law enforcement personnel.

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers must face the rigors of human conflict daily to bravely protect those whom they so selflessly serve; and

WHEREAS, a number of these officers are disabled and maimed in the line of duty, and others suffer physical impairments and other disorders caused by the hazards of their professional calling; and

WHEREAS, each year a significant number of these courageous officers lose their lives while protecting their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that officers who have dedicated their career to the service and protection of our citizens be afforded ample services and opportunities upon the completion of their law enforcement career; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that there is hereby created a special committee to conduct a study on the establishment of a pilot program to offer comprehensive programs designed to provide resources to former law enforcement personnel and to help them achieve their educational and career goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special committee's study will concentrate on health care, rehabilitation services, disability benefits, and occupational preparation, including, school-based training, community-based training, employment, and vocational training.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in conducting its study, the special committee shall also review information from a variety of sources, including, input from stakeholders, such as state and local law enforcement officials, family members, and advocates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special committee shall consist of fourteen (14) members, as follows:

- (1) A member of the health committee of the house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
- (2) A member of the health and welfare committee of the senate to be appointed by the speaker of the senate;
- (3) A member of the criminal justice committee of the house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
- (4) A member of the judiciary committee of the senate to be appointed by the speaker of the senate;
- (5) A member of the consumer and human resources committee of the house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
- (6) A member of the commerce committee of the senate to be appointed by the speaker of the senate;
- (7) A representative of the department of veteran affairs to be appointed by the commissioner;
- (8) A representative of the department of health to be appointed by the commissioner;
- (9) A representative of the department of intellectual and developmental disabilities to be appointed by the commissioner;
- (10) A representative of the department of human services to be appointed by the commissioner;
- (11) A representative of the department of safety to be appointed by the commissioner; and

(12) Three (3) law enforcement officials to be appointed by the Tennessee association of chiefs of police.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all members of the special committee shall be appointed no later than July 1, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special committee who are duly elected members of the general assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the general assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special committee shall be convened by the member appointed from the senate judiciary committee, and at its first meeting, the committee shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the chair of the special committee shall only schedule meetings to be held during times when the committee members who are members of the general assembly are eligible for travel reimbursement or provide such members of the committee with an option to attend the meetings virtually via video telecommunication services, subject to the approval of both the speaker of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a majority of the members constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and if video telecommunication services are approved, any member participating via a video telecommunication service shall be counted as present for purposes of establishing a quorum.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special committee shall report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the judiciary committee of the senate and the criminal justice committee of the house of representatives by January 8, 2015, at which time the special committee shall cease to exist.