HLS 241ES-31 ORIGINAL

2024 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD

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ELECTIONS: Creates the Election Reform Task Force to study processes and methods relative to redistricting and elections

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To create a task force to study reforms to Louisiana's process of redistricting and methods
3	of elections to promote efficiency and ensure eligible Louisiana voters can
4	effectively participate in the political process and to submit a written report of the
5	task force findings and recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana no later
6	than February 14, 2025.
7	WHEREAS, voting is the cornerstone of American democracy; and
8	WHEREAS, the resiliency of Louisiana's political institutions relies on the robust
9	political participation of the citizens of this state; and
10	WHEREAS, the process of redistricting is the quintessential obligation of a
11	legislature and tantamount to the distribution of political power; and
12	WHEREAS, the process of redistricting must be designed to create maps in the best
13	interests of all Louisiana voters and align with the principles of a republican democracy; and
14	WHEREAS, structural reforms including the methods and parameters of conducting
15	primary and general elections are consequential to enabling voters to elect their candidates
16	of choice; and
17	WHEREAS, election reforms require investment from the state and could entail
18	increasing election dates or costs; and
19	WHEREAS, from January 2019 to January 2024, Louisiana held twenty-eight
20	elections and as many as seven in a single calendar year; and

1 WHEREAS, the multitude of Louisiana's constant and decentralized elections comes 2 at great expense to taxpayers; and 3 WHEREAS, every election is important, and the vote of every eligible Louisiana 4 voter is entitled to its unique, intrinsic, and equal weight in the maintenance of our 5 democracy; and 6 WHEREAS, the state has an obligation to ensure elections are administered with the 7 most efficient and effective methods to deliver the most reliable and representative results. 8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 9 establish the Election Reform Task Force to study reforms related to the process of 10 redistricting and methods of elections, including but not limited to alternative methods of 11 redistricting including the election or appointment of independent or bipartisan 12 commissions; processes to support community engagement and ensure maps reflect 13 Louisiana's historic communities of interest; structural reforms related to the methods of 14 conducting primaries and general elections; and the consolidation or streamlining of 15 Louisiana's elections. 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the primary objective of the task force is to 17 deliberate all applicable facts, circumstances, policies, and procedures that contribute to 18 inefficiencies, excess spending, and results not reflective of the best interest of Louisiana 19 voters in the process of redistricting and methods of conducting elections. 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the task force shall be as 21 follows: 22 (1) The chairman of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs or 23 his designee. 24 (2) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs or his designee. 25 26 (3) The chairman of the Legislative Democratic Caucus or his designee. 27 (4) The chairman of the Legislative Republican Caucus or his designee.

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(6) The Louisiana secretary of state or his designee.

(5) The chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus or his designee.

(7) The president of the Louisiana Registrars of Voters Association or his designee.

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1 (8) The president of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association or his designee. 2 (9) The president of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana or his designee. 3 (10) The president of the Louisiana Municipal Association or his designee. 4 (11) The president of the Louisiana District Judges Association or his designee. 5 (12) The president of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association or his designee. 6 (13) The president of the Louisiana School Boards Association or his designee. 7 (14) The president of Power Coalition for Equity and Justice or his designee. 8 (15) The president of the Louisiana State Conference of the NAACP or his designee. 9 (16) The president of the League of Women Voters of Louisiana or her designee. 10 (17) The executive director of Voice of the Experienced or his designee. 11 (18) The president of the Pelican Institute for Public Policy or his designee. 12 (19) The president of the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana or his 13 designee. 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be co-chaired by the 15 chairman of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and the chairman 16 of the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, and the staffs of those 17 committees or other appropriate legislative staff shall staff the task force. 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve 19 without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be 20 individually entitled from their respective organizations. 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the total membership shall 22 constitute a quorum of the task force and that any official action by the task force shall 23 require an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting. 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may conduct meetings at times 25 as it may determine are necessary or convenient to enable it to timely perform its duties; 26 however, the co-chairs shall convene the first meeting no later than March 11, 2024, and the 27 committee shall meet no less than five times. 28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Election Reform Task Force shall submit a 29 written report of the task force findings and recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana

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no later than February 14, 2025.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to each

member of the established task force.

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 1 Original

2024 First Extraordinary Session

Willard

Establishes a task force to study reforms to La.'s process of redistricting and methods of elections to promote efficiency and ensure eligible La. voters can effectively participate in the political process and to submit a written report of the task force findings and recommendations to the Legislature of La. no later than Feb. 14, 2025.