

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 129

BY REPRESENTATIVE BROADWATER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To direct each public body that has a custodian of public records to make the identity and contact information of its custodian available to the public in a manner that will allow a member of the public to quickly determine the appropriate person to whom a public records request should be submitted, including by placing such information on the Internet.

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana recognizes the right of the people of the state to participate directly in the affairs of government in providing, in Article XII, Section 3, that no person shall be denied the right to examine public documents, except as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, the legislature enacted the Public Records Law to provide relative to this right; and

WHEREAS, the Public Records Law applies to each "public body", which term is defined to include any branch, department, office, agency, board, commission, district, governing authority, political subdivision, or any committee, subcommittee, advisory board, or task force thereof, any other instrumentality of state, parish, or municipal government, including a public or quasi-public nonprofit corporation designated as an entity to perform a governmental or proprietary function, or an affiliate of a housing authority; and

WHEREAS, the Public Records Law establishes a framework for the ready availability of public records to requesting persons; and

WHEREAS, the Public Records Law specifically provides that it is the duty of the custodian of the public records of a public body to provide copies to persons so requesting; and

WHEREAS, the identity and contact information for most custodians of public records are not readily available to members of the public; and

WHEREAS, many public bodies contain other public bodies which may have their own custodians, although this is not always the case; and

WHEREAS, it is therefore difficult in many instances for a member of the public to determine to whom a public records request should be submitted; and

WHEREAS, this difficulty increases the time and expense involved in examining public records and thereby impedes the public's ability to exercise this important right granted in the constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Internet has become an important resource for the public to obtain important information, including information concerning government.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct each public body that has a custodian of public records to make the identity and contact information of its custodian available to the public in a manner that will allow a member of the public to quickly determine the appropriate person to whom a public records request should be submitted, including by placing such information on the Internet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana, each statewide elected official, the chief executive officer of each department in the executive branch of state government, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president of the Senate, the Louisiana Municipal Association, the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, and the Louisiana School Boards Association.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE