

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 14

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD AND SENATORS FOIL, MILLIGAN, REESE,  
TARVER, AND WOMACK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create a task force to study the voting rights of persons with disabilities and the procedures available to assist voters with disabilities to cast their votes and to report its findings to the Legislature of Louisiana prior to February 1, 2023.

WHEREAS, voting is a civic duty of paramount importance; and

WHEREAS, the right to vote is protected by the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the immeasurable value one vote can have; and

WHEREAS, it is important that each Louisiana citizen who is eligible to vote be able to exercise that right; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana is committed to exploring every possible means that may positively affect the potential for every eligible citizen to participate in the life of their community and state by voting; and

WHEREAS, persons with disabilities may face unique hurdles in accessing and executing their ballots and obtaining full assurance that they are counted.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create a task force to study the voting rights of persons with disabilities and the procedures available to assist voters with disabilities to cast their votes, including any means available, or that might be made available, to facilitate voting by persons with disabilities and any impediments that exist to voting by such persons; the task force shall, at a minimum,

investigate tactics to streamline the processes for voters with disabilities to receive assistance when voting.

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

- (1) The secretary of state, or his designee, who shall chair the task force.
- (2) The director of the office of disability affairs shall appoint three people with disabilities.
- (3) The commissioner of elections.
- (4) The Clerks of Court Association shall appoint one member.
- (5) The Registrars of Voters Association shall appoint one member.
- (6) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, or his designee.
- (7) The executive director of Disability Rights Louisiana shall appoint a person with a disability.
- (8) The chief executive officer of the Split Second Foundation shall appoint a person with a disability.
- (9) The executive director of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council shall appoint a person with a disability.
- (10) The executive director of The Arc Louisiana shall appoint a person with a disability.
- (11) The executive director of Power Coalition for Equity and Justice, or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the first meeting of the task force shall be called by the chair, and at its first meeting the task force shall select other officers as it deems appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall meet at such times and places as determined by its chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled to as members or employees of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the total membership shall constitute a quorum of the task force, and any official action by the task force shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be staffed at the discretion of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall make a written report of its findings, and any recommendations it may have, to the Legislature of Louisiana as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, by February 1, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the governor and the secretary of state.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE