

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 153

BY REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request local, parish, and state law enforcement agencies to implement special training for officers who encounter military service members and veterans who encounter crisis situations that result from reintegration into civilian life.

WHEREAS, military service members and veterans experience a unique set of circumstances when reintegrating back into society after deployment; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers play an integral role in caring for the citizens of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, often military service members and veterans suffer from physical and psychological consequences from traumatic experiences which may result in injury to themselves, their families, and law enforcement personnel; and

WHEREAS, research continues to show that the effects of wartime service and injuries, such as traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, or other service-related conditions, may increase the number of veterans who attempt or commit suicide; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers are usually the first to respond to a military service member or veteran in crisis and must be able to demonstrate a set of specific skills and de-escalation strategies and tactics to address those situations; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers that come in contact with military service members and veterans in crisis must be trained in order to recognize factors that may indicate thoughts of suicide or harm to others; and

WHEREAS, despite the increased awareness of suicide as a public health problem, studies indicate that law enforcement officers who come in contact with people at risk for suicide are not adequately trained to recognize factors that may indicate a potential for suicide; and

WHEREAS, training of law enforcement officers in suicide assessment would be effective, valuable, and life-saving for military service members and veterans in crisis; and

WHEREAS, training for law enforcement officers that includes identification of mental illness and behavioral disorders, conditions that may indicate a higher risk for stress-related disorders would greatly assist military service members and veterans who encounter crisis situations that result from reintegration into civilian life; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that law enforcement agency personnel respond to military service members and veterans with special awareness of those service members who have been deployed in their military career.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request local, parish, and state law enforcement agencies to develop and implement special training for law enforcement officers that come in direct contact with military service members and veterans who encounter crisis situations that result from veteran reintegration in order to recognize the factors that may indicate thoughts of suicide or harm to others.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the president of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, the executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, and the superintendent of Louisiana State Police.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE