

1 WHEREAS, as documented in the most recent Louisiana Drug Threat Assessment
2 conducted by the United States Department of Justice's National Drug Intelligence Center,
3 over thirty percent of Louisiana prisoners are incarcerated for drug-related crimes, second
4 only to those imprisoned for violent crimes (thirty-eight percent), with the latter crimes often
5 having a root cause in drug abuse or distribution; and

6 WHEREAS, in the same Louisiana Drug Threat Assessment, a major Louisiana city
7 estimated that as many as three quarters of all homicides in the city are drug related; and

8 WHEREAS, evidence shows that illegal drug use among students and parents has
9 a highly detrimental impact on educational prospects of young people, with illegal drug use
10 by students or their families as a major factor contributing to the incidence of school
11 dropouts; and

12 WHEREAS, according to a 2007 report by the United States Substance Abuse and
13 Mental Health Services Administration, nineteen percent of workers under age twenty-six
14 and more than ten percent of workers age twenty-six to thirty-four used illicit drugs during
15 the past month, illustrating a component in the overall cost of drug use to United States
16 businesses, which is estimated to be one hundred billion dollars annually; and

17 WHEREAS, persons who remain unemployed due to their inability to pass a pre-
18 employment drug screening cause a significant net loss to the economy of this state and
19 create an entirely avoidable cost to society; and

20 WHEREAS, the points above are but few examples of the devastating impact of
21 illegal drug use; and

22 WHEREAS, undertaking a study of the total detriment to Louisiana of illegal drug
23 use would be a challenging endeavor, yet such a study is essential if the public is to
24 understand the true magnitude of this problem in our state; and

25 WHEREAS, the Drug Policy Board of this state is established in R.S. 49:219.1 et
26 seq. as a body corporate within the office of the governor for the purpose of developing
27 policies for more effectively combating illegal drugs; and

28 WHEREAS, this body is composed of twenty-three members representing state
29 agencies and other organizations which deal with the myriad ramifications of illegal drug
30 use; and

1 WHEREAS, R.S. 49:219.1 declares that it is the policy of the state of Louisiana to
2 undertake every responsible effort, explore every opportunity, invite every useful
3 contribution, and expend every available resource to eliminate the abuse of drugs and the
4 damage to people and institutions that result from such abuse; and

5 WHEREAS, the Drug Policy Board, as the leading entity of this state charged solely
6 with combating illegal drugs, and as a body comprised of members with notable expertise
7 in areas related to illegal drugs, is uniquely positioned to analyze and report to the legislature
8 on the overall impact and cost of illegal drug use.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
10 authorize and direct the Drug Policy Board to coordinate a study of the overall impact and
11 estimated aggregate costs of illegal drug use in the state of Louisiana.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting such study, the Drug Policy Board
13 shall obtain and synthesize data, analysis, and commentary on the impact of illegal drug use
14 from each of its member agencies and organizations.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Drug Policy Board shall present this study
16 in the form of a report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate
17 Committee on Health and Welfare on or before March 1, 2012.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
19 to the chairman of the Drug Policy Board.

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)]

Katz

HCR No. 16

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