Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 164

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: Requests the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to meet and function as a joint committee to study the organization of state government with a focus on abolishing or merging one or more departments in order to provide for creation of the Department of Elderly Affairs as provided in House Bill No. 352 of the 2013 R.S.

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To authorize and request the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and the 3 Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to meet and function as a 4 joint committee to study and make recommendations with respect to organization of 5 the executive branch of state government with a focus on the abolition or merger of 6 departments so as to provide for the creation of the Department of Elderly Affairs 7 as provided in House Bill No. 352 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature. 8 WHEREAS, House Bill No. 352 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature 9 provides for creation of a Department of Elderly Affairs in the executive branch of state 10 government to be responsible for the functions of the state that are designed to meet the 11 needs of Louisiana residents sixty years of age or older, for planning, monitoring, 12 coordination, and delivery of services to the elderly of the state, for developing a plan for 13 efficient coordination of functions and services for the elderly and consolidation of such 14 functions and services within the department with local administration by the parish 15 voluntary councils on aging, and for making recommendations to the governor and to the 16 legislature for needed improvements and additional resources to promote the welfare of the 17 state's aging population; and

18 WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 1 of the Constitution of Louisiana provides in part
19 that "Except for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor, all offices, agencies, and

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other instrumentalities of the executive branch and their functions, powers, duties, and responsibilities shall be allocated according to function within not more than twenty departments" and further provides that "Reallocation of the functions, powers, and duties of all departments, offices, agencies, and other instrumentalities of the executive branch, except those functions, powers, duties, and responsibilities allocated by this constitution, shall be as provided by law"; and

WHEREAS, the executive branch of state government currently is comprised of twenty departments, and recognizing that creation of a new department would necessitate the elimination of an existing department or a constitutional amendment authorizing an additional department, House Bill No. 352 provides that the new Department of Elderly Affairs becomes effective upon the effective date of the abolition of one or more of the existing departments or upon the effective date of a constitutional amendment that authorizes creation of an additional executive branch department, whichever date is earlier; and

WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes that there is a need to create a Department of Elderly Affairs to address more effectively the needs of this important and growing segment of the state's population, that efficiencies and budgetary savings may be realized by the merger of existing departments of state government, and that providing for the organization of the executive branch by law is a constitutional responsibility of the legislature.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 20 authorize and request the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and the 21 Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to meet and function as a joint 22 committee to study and make recommendations with respect to organization of the executive 23 branch of state government with a focus on the abolition or merger of departments so as to 24 provide for the creation of the Department of Elderly Affairs as provided in House Bill No. 25 352 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint committee shall make such studies as it shall find necessary or appropriate to carry out its purposes; that for the purposes of conducting such study, the committee may call upon any department or agency of the state for information and assistance, and all such agencies and departments shall cooperate with

- 1 the committee, and that the committee may request and utilize the assistance of any and all
- 2 public and private sources.
- 3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint committee shall report its findings and
- 4 recommendations to the legislature not later than sixty days prior to the convening of the
- 5 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

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)]

Harrison

HCR No. 164

Authorizes and requests the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to meet and function as a joint committee to study and make recommendations with respect to organization of the executive branch of state government with a focus on the abolition or merger of departments so as to provide for the creation of the Department of Elderly Affairs as provided in House Bill No. 352 of the 2013 R.S. Authorizes the committee to request and receive information and assistance from all departments and agencies of state government. Provides for a report of study findings and recommendations at least 60 days prior to the 2014 R.S.