HLS 10RS-4636 ENGROSSED

Regular Session, 2010

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 236

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROSALIND JONES

VOTERS/VOTING: Requests a report regarding efforts to make the opportunity to vote by absentee by mail available to any incarcerated person who is eligible to vote

## A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Municipal Association, the Police Jury Association of

3 Louisiana, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, and the Louisiana Association of 4 Chiefs of Police to survey their members and the Department of Public Safety and 5 Corrections to survey any private entity that operates a correctional facility on efforts 6 to make voting by absentee by mail available to every person who is incarcerated in 7 an institution inside or outside the parish in which he is qualified to vote who is not 8 under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony or who has had his 9 registration reinstated after completing the sentence imposed following a felony 10 conviction and to report their findings and recommendations, including an estimate 11 of any costs associated with such efforts, to the House Committee on House and 12 Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental 13 Affairs by February 25, 2011. 14 WHEREAS, voting is a civic duty of paramount importance and is a constitutionally 15 protected right; and 16 WHEREAS, it is important that all eligible citizens of Louisiana be able to exercise 17 their right to vote; and 18 WHEREAS, an individual incarcerated in an institution inside or outside the parish 19 in which he is qualified to vote who is not under an order of imprisonment for conviction of

1 a felony or who has had his registration reinstated under the provisions of R.S. 18:177 2 should be able to exercise his constitutional right to vote and in doing so make his voice 3 heard and participate in the democratic process; and 4 WHEREAS, the legislature is committed to exploring every possible means that may 5 improve opportunities for each eligible citizen to participate in the life of his community and 6 state by voting; and 7 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon each mayor, sheriff, chief of police, parish 8 governing authority, and private entity that operates a correctional facility to take every 9 possible step to facilitate voting by absentee by mail by those persons incarcerated yet 10 eligible to vote; and 11 WHEREAS, in Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 64 of the 2007 Regular Session 12 of the Legislature, the legislature requested that every mayor, sheriff, and chief of police in 13 the state of Louisiana make available to every person who is incarcerated but not convicted 14 of a felony the opportunity to vote by absentee by mail in all elections. 15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 16 urge and request the Louisiana Municipal Association, the Police Jury Association of 17 Louisiana, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, and the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of 18 Police to survey their members and the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to 19 survey any private entity that operates a correctional facility on efforts to make voting by 20 absentee by mail available to every person who is incarcerated in an institution inside or 21 outside the parish in which he is qualified to vote who is not under an order of imprisonment 22 for conviction of a felony or who has had his registration reinstated after completing the 23 sentence imposed following a felony conviction and to report their findings and 24 recommendations, and including an estimate of any costs associated with such efforts, to the 25 House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate 26 and Governmental Affairs by February 25, 2011. 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 28 executive director of the Louisiana Municipal Association, the executive director of the 29 Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Association of

- 1 Chiefs of Police, the executive director of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, and the
- 2 secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

## **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)]

Rosalind Jones HCR No. 236

Requests the L.M.A., the Police Jury Association, the La. Sheriffs' Association, and the La. Association of Chiefs of Police to survey their members and the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to survey any private entity that operates a correctional facility on efforts to make voting by absentee by mail available to every person who is incarcerated in an institution inside or outside the parish in which he is qualified to vote who is not under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony or who has had his registration reinstated after completing the sentence imposed following a felony conviction and to report their findings and recommendations, including an estimate of the costs associated with such efforts, to the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs by Feb. 25, 2011.

## Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on House and Governmental</u> <u>Affairs</u> to the <u>original</u> resolution.

- 1. Changes resolution <u>from</u> direct <u>to</u> urge and request.
- 2. Adds the Police Jury Association and the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to the list of entities requested to survey and report pursuant to the resolution.
- 3. Adds requirement that report to legislature contain an estimate of costs associated with allowing incarcerated persons to vote by absentee by mail.