

1 WHEREAS, various authorities have suggested the need for Louisiana to address a
2 number of policy areas that would require constitutional change, including such matters as
3 the state's tax structure and budgetary practices, dedication of state revenues and the
4 resulting inability of the legislature to allocate tax resources where needed, as well as fiscal
5 restraints on local governments that dramatically limit their authority to meet fiscal and
6 budgetary demands; and

7 WHEREAS, there were one or more mid-year budget cuts due to projected deficits
8 each year from Fiscal Year 2008-2009 through Fiscal Year 2016-2017 and thirteen mid-year
9 adjustments that adjusted deficits totaling almost four billion dollars, which further indicates
10 the compelling need to examine and address the state's financial policies embedded in the
11 constitution; and

12 WHEREAS, as was the case in 1973, Louisiana once again faces the need for a
13 serious analysis and revision of its basic law by a constitutional convention to: conduct a
14 genuine examination of the state's critical needs, undertake an in-depth discussion of reform
15 concepts, craft provisions that allow for flexibility and innovation in legislative solutions to
16 problems of the present and the future, and challenge Louisiana's voters to accept
17 constructive change; and

18 WHEREAS, prior to convening a constitutional convention, it would be beneficial
19 to undertake appropriate study and analysis to enable effective legislative decisions and
20 consensus concerning details of convention composition, organization, procedure, and
21 staffing and other resources.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
23 create and establish the Constitutional Convention Study Commission to undertake all study
24 and analysis necessary to make recommendations to the legislature for calling a
25 constitutional convention to revise the Constitution of Louisiana.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall be composed of the
27 following legislators:

28 (1) Five members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the
29 House of Representatives in a manner to reflect the diversity of the membership of the
30 House of Representatives.

1 (2) Five members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate in a manner
2 to reflect the diversity of the membership of the Senate.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall hold its organizational
4 meeting within thirty days after adjournment sine die of the 2019 Regular Session of the
5 Legislature on the call of the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of
6 the Senate acting jointly and that at such organizational meeting the commission shall elect
7 a chairman, a vice chairman, and such other officers as it finds necessary.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall make such studies as it
9 finds necessary or appropriate to make recommendations to the legislature on all matters
10 relevant to the convening and conduct of a constitutional convention, including but not
11 limited to:

12 (1) Identification of significant policy areas that must be addressed in order to
13 propose a constitution that will serve the state effectively.

14 (2) Identification of pertinent background material and data relative to significant
15 policy areas that the commission determines will be useful to the work of the convention.

16 (3) Recommendations for the composition of the membership of the convention.

17 (4) Recommended proposed timetables for the convention.

18 (5) Recommendations regarding staffing and other resources needed and available
19 to address policy issues and to skillfully draft constitutional language.

20 (6) Recommendations for budget needs for effective conduct of a convention.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall complete its study and
22 determine the recommendations it will make to the legislature no later than January 1, 2020,
23 and shall submit to each member of the legislature and to the governor, no later than January
24 13, 2020, the complete results of its study and a report of its findings and its
25 recommendations based thereon.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission, for the purposes of conducting
27 the study as provided in this Resolution, may utilize the personnel, facilities, and services
28 of the legislative auditor, the legislative fiscal officer, and the staff of the House of
29 Representatives and the Senate, and that the commission may request and utilize such
30 counsel, assistance, personnel, facilities, and advice as may be obtained from any and all

1 public sources and from any and all private sources, including but not necessarily restricted
2 to private research agencies, individuals, and organizations.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission may make or cause to be made
4 any studies it finds useful for the purposes of this Resolution through legislative personnel
5 or in cooperation with any public or private agency, including but not limited to universities,
6 colleges, foundations, charitable corporations, and research organizations, and the
7 commission may call upon the members or staffs of any and all departments or agencies of
8 the state for data and assistance, and all such departments and agencies shall cooperate with
9 the commission.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission may receive grants, donations,
11 or gifts of money or services from public or private organizations or from any other source,
12 to be utilized for the purposes of the commission.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission may create or appoint advisory
14 commissions or task forces, to act in an advisory capacity or to assist in its studies,
15 composed of such representatives of the public or private sectors as it deems appropriate.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all expenses directly incurred by the commission
17 may be paid from any funds available for the purpose and, with the approval of the presiding
18 officers of the two houses of the Legislature of Louisiana, from funds available to such
19 presiding officers for expenses of the legislature.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall be deemed dissolved at
21 ten o'clock in the morning on January 13, 2020.

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)]

HCR 74 Original

2019 Regular Session

Abramson

Proposed concurrent resolution creates the Constitutional Convention Study Commission to make necessary studies and analysis to identify the provisions of the Constitution of La. which should be considered for revision in a constitutional convention and to make recommendations for the conduct of a constitutional convention.

(1) Provides that the commission be composed of:

- (a) Five members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives in a manner to reflect the diversity of the membership of the House of Representatives.
 - (b) Five members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate in a manner to reflect the diversity of the membership of the Senate.
- (2) Requires that the commission hold its organizational meeting within 30 days after adjournment sine die of the 2019 Regular Session on the call of the House speaker and the Senate president acting jointly. Requires the commission, at the organizational meeting, to elect a chairman, a vice chairman, and other officers it finds necessary.
- (3) Requires the commission to make such studies as it finds necessary or appropriate to make recommendations to the legislature on all matters relevant to the convening and conduct of a constitutional convention including:
 - (a) Identification of significant policy areas that must be addressed in order to propose a constitution that will serve the state effectively.
 - (b) Identification of pertinent background material and data relative to significant policy areas that the commission determines will be useful to the work of the convention.
 - (c) Recommendations for the composition of the membership of the convention.
 - (d) Recommended proposed timetables for the convention.
 - (e) Recommendations regarding staffing and other resources needed and available to address policy issues and to skillfully draft constitutional language.
 - (f) Recommendations for budget needs for effective conduct of a convention.
- (4) Requires the commission to complete its study and determine its recommendations by Jan. 1, 2020, and by Jan. 13, 2020, to submit study results and a report of its findings and recommendations to each legislator and the governor.
- (5) Authorizes the commission to utilize the personnel, facilities, and services of the legislative auditor, the legislative fiscal officer, and the staffs of the House of Representatives and the Senate and to request and use such counsel, assistance, personnel, facilities, and advice as may be obtained from any and all public or private sources.
- (6) Authorizes the commission to make, or cause to be made, studies useful to its purposes through legislative personnel or in cooperation with any public or private agency and to call upon departments or agencies of the state for data and assistance. Requires departments and agencies to cooperate with the commission.
- (7) Authorizes the commission to receive grants, donations, or gifts of money or services from public or private organizations or from any other sources and to create or appoint advisory commissions or task forces for advice or assistance composed of representatives of the public or private sectors.
- (8) Provides that expenses directly incurred by the commission may be paid from any funds available for the purpose and, with the approval of the legislative presiding officers, from funds available to such presiding officers for expenses of the legislature.
- (9) Provides that the commission is dissolved at 10:00 a.m. on Jan. 13, 2020.