

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 81

BY REPRESENTATIVES HUVAL, ABRAMSON, ARNOLD, BADON, BARROW, STUART BISHOP, BURRELL, CHAMPAGNE, EDWARDS, GAROFALO, HENSGENS, HOLLIS, LEBAS, LEOPOLD, LIGI, MILLER, JAY MORRIS, ORTEGO, PIERRE, THIBAUT, AND ALFRED WILLIAMS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana State Law Institute to study jury trial procedures in order to create an expedited or summary jury trial and to make specific recommendations for legislation.

WHEREAS, courts have struggled to design procedures to provide litigants with speedy, inexpensive, and fair resolutions to civil cases; and

WHEREAS, litigants frequently desire to try their cases before a jury, but choose not to due to the increased costs and delays involved in impaneling either a six-person or twelve-person jury; and

WHEREAS, certain states, including South Carolina, New York, and California, have developed expedited or summary jury trial procedures which have been successful in more efficiently using judicial resources; and

WHEREAS, the expedited or summary jury trial is based on a federal model with key features such as short, time-limited trials, relaxed rules of evidence, smaller juries, fewer witnesses testifying, and more control given to the attorneys who participate by mutual consent; and

WHEREAS, expedited or summary jury trial procedures modeled after successful procedures employed in other states and enacted in this state could result in more efficient use of our judicial resources and provide greater access to juries by civil litigants.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana State Law Institute to study jury trial procedures in order to create an expedited or summary jury trial process and to make specific recommendations for legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the director of the Louisiana State Law Institute and that the Louisiana State Law Institute report its findings and recommendations in the form of specific proposed legislation to the Legislature of Louisiana on or before January 1, 2014.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE