

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 53

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

LAW ENFORCE/OFFICERS: Creates a task force to study certain policies of the Baton Rouge Police Department

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create the Task Force on Baton Rouge Police Department Policies to study issues related  
3 to the seniority, promotion, and discipline of Baton Rouge police officers and to  
4 study strategies and best procedures by which the Baton Rouge Police Department  
5 can improve the educational and training requirements of its officers and to provide  
6 for a written report of findings and recommendations to the House Committee on  
7 Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs not later December 31, 2018.

8 WHEREAS, the citizens in many areas of the state of Louisiana are enduring a spike  
9 in violent, deadly crime as in the city of Baton Rouge which saw homicide rates soar to  
10 historic highs in 2017; and

11 WHEREAS, law enforcement officers provide a vital public service by playing an  
12 essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of the state's citizens; and

13 WHEREAS, in order to safeguard the public and law enforcement officers of this  
14 state, it is vital for law enforcement officers and the communities that they serve to have  
15 strong, collaborative relationships; and

16 WHEREAS, trust between law enforcement officers and the public is essential to the  
17 stability of communities, the integrity of the criminal justice system, and the safe and  
18 effective delivery of public safety services; and

19 WHEREAS, it is imperative that law enforcement agencies, including the Baton  
20 Rouge Police Department, employ and retain highly qualified and motivated police officers;  
21 and

1           WHEREAS, due to expanding law enforcement responsibilities and decreasing  
2 resources, maintaining a highly qualified and motivated police workforce has become one  
3 of the greatest challenges facing law enforcement agencies today; and

4           WHEREAS, Baton Rouge police leaders have recently complained that officers are  
5 overworked and becoming increasingly frustrated, and attrition has left the Baton Rouge  
6 Police Department facing the largest manpower shortage in fifteen years; and

7           WHEREAS, the mayor-president of East Baton Rouge Parish has included funding  
8 for two thirty-five officer academies in the 2018 budget of the city-parish which Baton  
9 Rouge police leaders hope will begin to replenish the ranks; and

10           WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Baton Rouge Police Department take every  
11 precaution to ensure that the duties of its officers are performed at the highest level  
12 available.

13           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby creates  
14 the Task Force on Baton Rouge Police Department Policies to study issues related to the  
15 seniority, promotion, and discipline of Baton Rouge police officers and to study strategies  
16 and best procedures by which the Baton Rouge Police Department can improve the  
17 educational and training requirements of its officers.

18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the  
19 following members:

20           (1) The state representative for House District No. 101.

21           (2) The mayor-president of East Baton Rouge Parish or his designee.

22           (3) Two members of the governing authority of East Baton Rouge Parish designated  
23 by the governing authority. One member shall be a republican and one member shall be a  
24 democrat.

25           (4) A representative of Together Baton Rouge designated by the executive  
26 committee of Together Baton Rouge.

27           (5) The president of the Baton Rouge Union of Police or his designee.

28           (6) The president of the Magnolia State Peace Officers Association of Louisiana or  
29 his designee.

1           (7) Four members of the Baton Rouge community appointed by the state  
2 representative for House District No. 101.

3           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of  
4 findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and  
5 Cultural Affairs not later than December 31, 2018.

6           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
7 entities named in this Resolution to serve or be represented on the task force.

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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)]

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HR 53 Original

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James

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