HLS 21RS-174 ORIGINAL

2021 Regular Session

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HOUSE STUDY REQUEST NO. 1

BY REPRESENTATIVE MINCEY

VETERANS: Requests the House Special Committee on Military and Veteran Affairs to study the issue of veteran homelessness and the feasibility and practicability of designating an employee of the Dept. of Veteran Affairs to focus on veteran homelessness

A STUDY REQUEST

2	To request the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs to study the issue
3	of veteran homelessness in Louisiana and the feasibility and practicability of
4	designating an employee of the Department of Veteran Affairs to focus on veteran
5	homelessness, and to report its findings to the House of Representatives prior to
6	November 19, 2021.
7	WHEREAS, in January 2020, the United States Department of Housing and Urban
8	Development-designated Continuum of Care program for homelessness in Louisiana
9	reported three hundred seventy-seven veterans experiencing homelessness in Louisiana as
10	part of its annual point-in-time count census; and
11	WHEREAS, social isolation, lack of support, substance abuse, mental illness, and
12	lack of affordable housing have been identified as leading causes of veteran homelessness;
13	and
14	WHEREAS, some of the main issues with veteran homelessness are the lack of
15	affordable housing, the difficulty veterans experience finding landlords who will accept
16	housing vouchers, finding housing that meets fair market value, and locating housing options
17	that are affordable; and
18	WHEREAS, the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans reported that a top
19	priority for homeless veterans is safe, sanitary, and secure housing that offers a supportive
20	environment free of drugs and alcohol.

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2	the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs to obtain a summary report
3	from the Louisiana Department of Veteran Affairs that includes the latest numbers of
4	homeless veterans and the scope and breakdown of veteran homelessness in Louisiana, and
5	that identifies effective veteran homelessness prevention efforts currently underway in
6	Louisiana.
7	THEREFORE, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana further
8	requests the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs to seek input from
9	selected non-profit entities and coalitions that are currently serving homeless veterans in
10	Louisiana and that will report to the committee its recommendations for the most direct and
11	effective ways in which the state legislature may assist in preventing veteran homelessness
12	in Louisiana, including discussion of the need for individual shelter facilities in Louisiana.
13	The selected non-profit entities shall consist of the following:
14	(1) Wellspring Alliance.
15	(2) Hope Connections.
16	(3) Elle Foundation.
17	(4) Start Corporation.
18	(5) Volunteers of America Greater Baton Rouge.
19	(6) Volunteers of America Southeast Louisiana.
20	(7) The seven Louisiana Continuum of Care regions that serve the homeless and
21	report to the Louisiana Housing Corporation and the United States Department of Housing
22	and Urban Development.
23	THEREFORE, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana further
24	requests the House Special Committee on Military and Veteran Affairs to determine the need
25	for adding a full-time position in the Louisiana Department of Veteran Affairs to be
26	responsible for focusing on preventing veteran homelessness and building direct effective
27	statewide referrals for emergency, transitional, and long-term housing for Louisiana veterans
28	and veterans at risk of homelessness.
29	THEREFORE, in the undertaking of the study, the House Special Committee on
30	Military and Veteran Affairs may seek input from the Louisiana Department of Veteran

 $THEREFORE, the \ House \ of \ Representatives \ of the \ Legislature \ of \ Louisiana \ requests$

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ORIGINAL
HSR NO. 1

1 Affairs and the Louisiana Housing Corporation to determine additional effective methods

- 2 by which the state of Louisiana can continue to prevent veteran homelessness.
- THEREFORE, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana requests
- 4 the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs to study the issue of veteran
- 5 homelessness in Louisiana and the feasibility and practicability of designating an employee
- 6 of the Department of Veteran Affairs to focus on homelessness, and to report its findings to
- 7 the House of Representatives prior to November 19, 2021.
- 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House Special Committee on Military and
- 9 Veterans Affairs shall submit one print copy and one electronic copy of any report produced
- pursuant to this Resolution to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required
- 11 by R.S. 24:772.

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)]

HSR 1 Original

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Requests the House Special Committee on Military and Veteran Affairs to study the issue of veteran homelessness in La. and the feasibility and practicability of designating an employee of the Dept. of Veteran Affairs to focus on homelessness, and to report its findings prior to Nov. 19, 2021.