

2022 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 147

BY SENATOR HEWITT

PUBLIC MEETINGS. Creates the Public Entity Remote Operations Task Force.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create the Task Force on Remote Operations of Public Entities.

3 WHEREAS, open public meetings are a cornerstone of government transparency;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, communication technology has advanced significantly since the
6 adoption of the Open Meetings Law; and

7 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally changed the nature of
8 communication and reinforced the need for flexibility and adaptation of best practices; and

9 WHEREAS, participation in virtual meetings presents unique challenges that require
10 comprehensive analysis; and

11 WHEREAS, a thoughtful, collaborative approach to developing a framework for the
12 improvement of conducting remote meetings will be of great public benefit.

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
14 does hereby create and provide for the Task Force on Remote Operations of Public Entities
15 to study remote operations of public entities, and to propose recommendations, together with
16 specific proposals for legislation, by written report to the Senate and to the David R. Poynter
17 Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than
18 February 1, 2023.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in executing its duties, the task force should
2 consider proposing guidelines for new open meetings legislation and the steps necessary for
3 the implementation of new policies pertaining to participation in remote meetings of public
4 entities.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following
6 members:

7 (1) The chairman of the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee, or his
8 designee.

9 (2) The chairman of the House and Governmental Affairs Committee, or his
10 designee, provided he notifies the chairman of the Senate and Governmental Affairs
11 Committee of his desire to serve as a member of the task force.

12 (3) A member with open meetings law expertise, appointed by the governor.

13 (4) A member with knowledge of information technology issues related to remote
14 meetings, appointed by the commissioner of administration.

15 (5) The president of the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, or his
16 designee.

17 (6) The executive director of the Louisiana Press Association, or his designee.

18 (7) A member of the disabled community, appointed by the executive director of the
19 Governor's Office of Disability Affairs.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each appointing authority shall submit the name
21 of the authority's appointee to the task force to the chairman of the Senate & Governmental
22 Affairs Committee no later than August 1, 2022.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force shall convene for its first meeting no
24 later than September 1, 2022, at the call of the chairman of the Senate & Governmental
25 Affairs Committee, and at the first meeting, the members shall elect a chairman and other
26 officers as the task force may deem appropriate.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a
28 quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the
29 affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve

1 without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be
2 individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the staffs of the Senate, legislative fiscal office,
4 and legislative auditor's office shall provide staff support to the task force.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on the date of the
6 submission of its report.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
8 chairman of the House and Governmental Affairs Committee, the governor, the
9 commissioner of administration, the executive director of the Louisiana Press Association,
10 the president of the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, and the executive director
11 of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Matt DeVille.

	DIGEST	
SR 147 Original	2022 Regular Session	Hewitt

Creates the Task Force on Remote Operations of Public Entities.

Comprises the task force of:

- (1) The chairman of the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee, or his designee.
- (2) The chairman of the House and Governmental Affairs Committee, or his designee.
- (3) A member with open meetings law expertise, appointed by the governor.
- (4) A member with knowledge of information technology issues related to remote meetings, appointed by the commissioner of administration.
- (5) The president of the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, or his designee.
- (6) The executive director of the Louisiana Press Association, or his designee.
- (7) A member of the disabled community, appointed by the executive director of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs.