

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 98

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Recognizes the potential value for local law enforcement agencies of an independent police monitor

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To recognize the potential value for local law enforcement agencies of an independent  
3 police monitor.

4 WHEREAS, local law enforcement officers, both sheriff's deputies and municipal  
5 police officers, are, as they have always been, the essential guardians of the safety of  
6 communities; they are the critical barrier between the few who wish to cause harm and the  
7 many who wish to go about their daily activities free from fear; and

8 WHEREAS, effective policing requires effective community support; policing is not  
9 done in a vacuum; if civilians are to be as safe as possible they must work collaboratively  
10 with law enforcement officers and agencies, but if citizens come to perceive law  
11 enforcement officers to be as much of a threat to their safety as are criminals, the health of  
12 the community deteriorates rapidly; and

13 WHEREAS, though citizens and local elected officials desire to hold sheriff's  
14 deputies and municipal police officers to very high standards of integrity and service, many  
15 aspects of a law enforcement agency are unique to the law enforcement field, and special  
16 expertise is required to evaluate and improve internal practices, procedures, and culture;  
17 general management experts and local officials may not be in the best position to determine  
18 whether a particular department is fulfilling its duties in a way that meets such high  
19 standards; and

20 WHEREAS, an independent police monitor can fill that gap by combining law  
21 enforcement expertise with an outside-the-department perspective, thereby playing a role

1 that neither a member of the department nor a traditional government executive or inspector  
2 general can play; and

3 WHEREAS, responsibilities of an independent police monitor can include:  
4 monitoring civilian and internal complaints, internal investigations, and discipline; reviewing  
5 the classification of all internal investigations and requiring that investigations be reopened;  
6 reporting to elected officials and the public on the effectiveness of the department; compiling  
7 and reporting on data to identify officers, units, and precincts that have been commended for  
8 exceptional work; reviewing training schedules and content and identifying and insisting on  
9 the adoption of best practices with respect to training; and

10 WHEREAS, in short, an independent police monitor can forge the required trust and  
11 collaboration between a law enforcement agency and the citizens of a community by  
12 cultivating an agency that strives for superior community service in every facet of life in a  
13 local law enforcement agency, including hiring and promotion, training, discipline,  
14 interagency cooperation, and community outreach.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
16 recognize the potential value for local law enforcement agencies of an independent police  
17 monitor and does hereby encourage parish and municipal governing authorities to consider  
18 the advantages of such a position for its respective sheriff's office or police department.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
20 Louisiana Municipal Association and the Police Jury Association of Louisiana for  
21 distribution to their respective local government membership.

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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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HCR 98 Original

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Hunter

Recognizes the potential value for local law enforcement agencies of an independent police monitor and encourages parish and municipal governing authorities to consider the advantages of such a position for its respective sheriff's office or police department.