
DIGEST

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HCR 56 Engrossed

2019 Regular Session

Foil

Abstract: Establishes the Constitutional Convention Study Commission.

Proposed concurrent resolution creates the Constitutional Convention Study Commission to make necessary studies and analysis to examine and make recommendations relative to the calling of an effective constitutional convention to revise the Constitution of La.

- (1) Provides that the commission be composed of the following members:
 - (a) Three members of the House and one former member of the House appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
 - (b) Three members of the Senate and one former member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate.
 - (c) Four members appointed by the governor.
 - (d) Four members appointed by the chief justice of the La. Supreme Court.
 - (e) A representative of the Public Affairs Research Council of La. appointed by the council.
 - (f) A representative of the Council for a Better La. appointed by the council.

Requires that, in making appointments, the appointing authorities shall seek to provide diversity in the commission's membership, including diversity of geography, race, and gender.

Provides for filling of a vacancy in the manner of the original appointment.

- (2) Requires that the commission hold its organizational meeting within 60 days after adjournment sine die of the 2019 R.S. on the call of the House speaker and the Senate president acting jointly.

Requires the commission, at the organizational meeting, to elect a chairman, a vice chairman, and other officers it finds necessary and to adopt rules for its own procedure.

- (3) Requires the commission to make such studies as it finds necessary or appropriate to make recommendations to the legislature on all matters relevant to the convening and conduct of a constitutional convention including a plan for the conduct of an effective constitutional convention which plan shall include but not be limited to:

- (a) A policy agenda for the convention which shall include:
 - (i) Identification of significant policy areas that must be addressed in order to propose a constitution that will serve the state effectively.
 - (ii) Alternative proposals for provisions on significant policy areas, together with explanations and explanatory materials therefor, including multiple optional approaches and solutions as appropriate to facilitate the work of the convention in addressing issues.
 - (iii) Pertinent background material and data relative to significant policy areas.
 - (b) Background and other materials that the committee determines will be useful to the work of the convention.
 - (c) Proposals for elimination of statutory materials from the constitution, together with recommendations for legislative action relative thereto.
 - (d) Recommendations for convention organization and deliberations, including the composition of the membership of the convention, officers and committees, and significant provisions for rules of procedure.
 - (e) Timetables for convening, for staff work, for completion of a draft constitution, for the election to submit the proposal to the voters of the state, and for effectiveness of the new constitution.
 - (f) An analysis of staffing and other resources needed and available to address policy issues and to skillfully draft constitutional language.
 - (g) Recommendations for budget needs for effective conduct of a convention.
 - (h) Recommendations for procedures for submission of alternative proposals to the voters and ballot structure.
- (4) Requires the commission to complete its study and determine its recommendations by Dec. 15, 2019, and, by Jan.10, 2020, to submit study results and a report of its findings and recommendations to each legislator and the governor.
 - (5) Authorizes the commission to utilize the personnel, facilities, and services of the legislative auditor, the legislative fiscal officer, and the staffs of the House of Representatives and the Senate and to request and use such counsel, assistance, personnel, facilities, and advice as may be obtained from any and all public sources.
 - (6) Authorizes the commission to create or appoint advisory commissions or task forces for advice or assistance, composed of representatives of the public or private sectors.

- (7) Provides that expenses directly incurred by the commission may be paid from any funds available for the purpose and, with the approval of the legislative presiding officers, from funds available to such presiding officers for expenses of the legislature.
- (8) Provides that the commission shall be dissolved on Jan. 13, 2020.