

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 23

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To create the Task Force on Prevention of Human Degradation and Exploitation of Vulnerable Individuals in Community-Based Residential Settings.

WHEREAS, safe and secure housing is a basic necessary element for survival that should be afforded to vulnerable individuals without threat of degradation, exploitation, or abuse at the hands of property owners or land owners; and

WHEREAS, many vulnerable adults in need of housing are recipients of government funded assistance, such as social security payments, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food stamps, or other federal or state stipends or subsidies; and

WHEREAS, while there are many genuinely good and caring property owners or landowners, the vulnerability of certain populations and access to their government benefits has created an opportunity for certain unsavory individuals to manipulate, scam, exploit, or stockpile individuals in unclean, unsafe, overcrowded, and unhealthy community-based residential settings; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the government agencies and associations entrusted with ensuring the health and welfare of the public come together to develop a strategy for regulating this situation so as to protect those most vulnerable and penalize those who are exploiting them.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Task Force on Prevention of Human Degradation and Exploitation of Vulnerable Individuals in Community-Based Residential Settings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be comprised of the following fifteen members:

(1) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, or his designee, who shall call the first meeting of the task force on or before October 1, 2018, and shall ensure that the task force fulfills its charge and submits the report required by this Resolution.

(2) The state health officer, or his designee.

(3) The director of the health standards section within the Louisiana Department of

Health, or his designee.

(4) The director of the adult protective services section within the Louisiana Department of Health, or his designee.

(5) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services, or his designee.

(6) The attorney general, or his designee.

(7) The state fire marshal, or his designee.

(8) The executive director of the Louisiana Municipal Association, or his designee.

(9) The executive director of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, or his designee.

(10) The executive director of the Advocacy Center of Louisiana, or his designee.

(11) The executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, or his designee.

(12) The executive director of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, or his designee.

(13) One person appointed by the chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

(14) One person appointed by the chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary C.

(15) The executive director of the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs, or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall meet as often as is necessary to research, discuss, compile, and submit a report containing findings and recommendations to the Louisiana Senate on or before February 1, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in executing its charge, the task force shall consider and recommend to the Senate the following:

(1) All present federal and state laws, rules, and regulations, as well as local ordinances in existence, to protect vulnerable individuals from degradation and exploitation by certain property owners or landowners.

(2) Any state laws, rules, and regulations or local ordinances proposed as necessary to protect vulnerable individuals from degradation and exploitation by certain property owners or landowners.

(3) Any proposals for regulation of community-based residential settings in which non-related individuals reside in a single dwelling and the rent or fees paid to the property owner or landowner are derived from government funded assistance, such as social security payments, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food stamps, or other federal or state stipends or subsidies.

(4) Any civil or criminal penalties to be assessed against a property owner or landowner who manipulates, scams, exploits, or stockpiles individuals in unclean, unsafe, overcrowded, and unhealthy community-based residential settings.

(5) Any transition or relocation plan for vulnerable individuals who reside in a community-based setting that is deemed unclean, unsafe, overcrowded, and unhealthy.

(6) Any other recommendation deemed important by the task force to address this matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their respective organization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on July 1, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the state health officer, the director of the health standards section within the Louisiana Department of Health, the director of the adult protective services section within the Louisiana Department of Health, the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services, the attorney general, the state fire marshal, the executive director of the Louisiana Municipal Association, the executive director of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, the executive director of the Advocacy Center of Louisiana, the executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the executive director of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the executive director of the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs, and the chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary C.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE