

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 59

BY REPRESENTATIVES MAGEE, BROWN, BRYANT, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, COUSSAN, DAVIS, DUPLESSIS, FRIEMAN, GREEN, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, JORDAN, LACOMBE, LANDRY, LARVADAIN, MACK, MARINO, MIGUEZ, GREGORY MILLER, MUSCARELLO, NELSON, NEWELL, PRESSLY, SEABAUGH, STEFANSKI, AND VILLIO AND SENATORS CONNICK, FOIL, JACKSON, LAMBERT, MORRIS, PETERSON, AND SMITH

COURTS/SUPREME COURT: Urges the Supreme Court of La. to approve CLE credit for full-time legislative staff attorneys

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Supreme Court of Louisiana to take appropriate action to allow full-
3 time legislative staff who are attorneys to also receive the eight hours of continuing
4 legal education (CLE) credit each year given to representatives, senators, and chief
5 clerical officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives for service in the
6 Louisiana Legislature as provided by Regulation 3.15 of Rule XXX of Part H of the
7 Rules of the Supreme Court of Louisiana.

8 WHEREAS, R.S. 37:211 provides that the Louisiana State Bar Association is created
9 and regulated under the rule-making power of the Supreme Court of Louisiana, pursuant to
10 a memorial addressed to the court by the legislature in Act 54 of 1940; and

11 WHEREAS, Rule 3 of Rule XXX of Part H of the Rules of the Supreme Court of
12 Louisiana requires every attorney licensed to practice law (member) to attend, or complete
13 an approved substitute for attendance, a minimum of twelve and one-half hours of approved
14 CLE each calendar year; and

15 WHEREAS, of the twelve and one-half hours of CLE required annually, not less than
16 one of such hours shall address legal ethics and not less than one of such hours shall address
17 professionalism; and

1 WHEREAS, Regulation 3.15 of Rule 3 of Rule XXX of Part H of the Rules of the
2 Supreme Court of Louisiana provides that eight hours of CLE credit each year will be given
3 to a member who is the governor or a member of the Louisiana Legislature, or a member
4 who serves as secretary of the Senate or clerk of the House of Representatives of the
5 Louisiana Legislature; and

6 WHEREAS, legislators receive eight hours of credit for attending the regular session
7 of the legislature and for attending extraordinary sessions of the legislature which may be
8 convened at other times by the governor and shall be convened by the presiding officers of
9 both houses upon written petition of a majority of the elected members of each house; and

10 WHEREAS, attorneys working full-time for the legislature are an integral part of the
11 state's legislative process. Among several other duties, attorneys of the legislative staff work
12 throughout the year to research and draft legislation, assist in conducting meetings to
13 facilitate the legislative process, and brief the legislators with the legal knowledge necessary
14 to adequately debate pending legislation; and

15 WHEREAS, while each legislator focuses on his particular legislation, attorneys of
16 the legislative staff work alongside all of the legislators and draft legislation covering all
17 subject matters; and

18 WHEREAS, attorneys of the legislative staff work to ensure legislation is clear,
19 concise, and sound to provide for good governance; and

20 WHEREAS, the number of full-time legislative attorneys for both the House and
21 Senate is less than fifty compared to the nearly nineteen thousand licensed attorneys in the
22 state; and

23 WHEREAS, considering the fact that the attorneys of the legislative staff conduct
24 the research and draft the legislation that ultimately becomes the laws of this state, the
25 attorneys should be given CLE credit for their knowledge and work.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
27 urge and request the Supreme Court of Louisiana to take appropriate action to allow full-
28 time legislative staff who are attorneys to also receive the eight hours of CLE credit each
29 year given to representatives, senators, and chief clerical officers of the Senate and the

- 1 House of Representatives for service in the Louisiana Legislature as provided by Regulation
 - 2 3.15 of Rule XXX of Part H of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Louisiana.
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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)]

HCR 59 Engrossed

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Magee

Urges the Supreme Court of La. to approve CLE credit for full-time legislative staff attorneys.