

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

JUDGES: Establishes a task force to study the funding and workload of judicial districts and circuits

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create the Judicial Structure Task Force to study the caseload data and the number of
3 judges of each appellate court and district court in Louisiana, to determine changes
4 necessary to the existing structure of the judiciary, to provide the most efficient use
5 of judicial resources, and to report its findings and recommendations to the House
6 Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Judiciary no later than
7 February 1, 2023.

8 WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 143 of the 2011 Regular Session of
9 the Louisiana Legislature requested the supreme court to study the structure of the judiciary;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the National Center for State Courts developed a work point study to
12 assess the workload of district and appellate courts throughout the state; and

13 WHEREAS, an updated work point study is needed to accurately assess the structure
14 and workload of the judiciary; and

15 WHEREAS, the release of the detailed 2020 federal decennial census data on August
16 12, 2021, revealed serious population losses in some parts of the state and tremendous
17 population growth in other parts of the state; and

18 WHEREAS, as population shifts from some areas of this state to others, it would be
19 prudent to examine the caseload data from each court in the state of Louisiana to determine
20 if the judicial resources are being used in the most efficient manner possible; and

1 WHEREAS, population and demographic changes in the state of Louisiana provide
2 a reassessment opportunity to determine if reallocation of judicial resources may be needed;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, it is necessary to consider the case filing data, case weights, court
5 structure and finance, and the use of support personnel in this study; and

6 WHEREAS, it is also necessary to study the territorial boundaries and the
7 jurisdictional limits of each court.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
9 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish the Judicial Structure Task Force to study the
10 caseload data and the number of judges of each appellate court and district court in
11 Louisiana, and to determine the changes necessary to the existing structure of the judiciary
12 and the most efficient use of judicial resources.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the
14 following members:

- 15 (1) Three members of the House Committee on Appropriations.
- 16 (2) Three members of the House Committee on Judiciary.
- 17 (3) The chief justice of the Supreme Court, or his designee.
- 18 (4) The chair of the Louisiana Conference of Court of Appeals Judges, or his
19 designee.
- 20 (5) A representative from the Louisiana District Judges Association.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for purposes of this study, the task force shall
22 have all powers otherwise provided by law and by rules of the House of Representatives, as
23 well as all powers inherent in legislative committees, and that the legislative members shall
24 receive the per diem and mileage provided for committees by the rules of the House of
25 Representatives.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman of the task force shall cause notice
27 of each meeting of the task force to be provided to the speaker of the House of
28 Representatives, the chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, and the chairman
29 of the House Committee on Judiciary.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature
2 of Louisiana further directs the task force to solicit input, information, data,
3 recommendations, and advice from the following persons, agencies, and organizations in
4 connection with the study directed by this Resolution:

- 5 (1) The Louisiana Supreme Court.
- 6 (2) The Louisiana District Judges Association.
- 7 (3) The Louisiana Clerks of Court Association.
- 8 (4) The Louisiana District Attorneys Association.
- 9 (5) The Louisiana Public Defender Board.
- 10 (6) The Louisiana State Bar Association.
- 11 (7) The Louisiana Association for Justice.
- 12 (8) The National Center for State Courts.
- 13 (9) Louisiana Association of Business & Industry.
- 14 (10) Any persons, agencies, entities, or stakeholders that the joint committee
15 deems necessary to fulfill its purposes.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of
17 its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Appropriations and the House
18 Committee on Judiciary not later than February 1, 2023, and that such recommendations
19 shall include the following:

- 20 (1) An updated work point study from the National Center for State Courts.
- 21 (2) Data from the National Center for State Courts on district court work flow.
- 22 (3) The caseload data of each appellate court and district court in Louisiana.
- 23 (4) The number of judges in each appellate court and district court in Louisiana.
- 24 (5) A determination of any necessary changes to the existing structure of the
25 judiciary.
- 26 (6) A determination of the most efficient use of judicial resources.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
28 chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, the chairman of the House Committee
29 on Judiciary, the chief justice of the supreme court, the chair of the Louisiana Conference
30 of Court of Appeals Judges, and the president of the Louisiana District Judges Association.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one print copy and one electronic copy of any
2 report produced pursuant to this Resolution shall be submitted to the David R. Poynter
3 Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

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)]

HR 30 Original

2022 Regular Session

Zeringue

Establishes the Judicial Structure Task Force to study the caseload data and the number of judges of each appellate court and district court, to determine the changes necessary to the existing structure of the judiciary and the most efficient use of judicial resources, and to report its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Judiciary no later than Feb. 1, 2023.