

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY REPRESENTATIVES BEAULLIEU AND DEVILLIER

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Patricia Lowrey-Dufour on her retirement as the senior legislative analyst for the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs with House Legislative Services

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Patricia Lowrey-Dufour upon her retirement as the senior legislative analyst
3 for the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs with House
4 Legislative Services.

5 WHEREAS, in September of 2024, Patricia Lowrey-Dufour retired as the senior
6 legislative analyst for the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs with House
7 Legislative Services (HLS), and it is appropriate to commend her for nearly four decades of
8 excellence in public service; and

9 WHEREAS, the daughter of Joe and Mary Vernon Lowrey and a native of Sabine
10 Parish, Trish was valedictorian of her class at Many High School and is a proud alumna of
11 Louisiana State University; and

12 WHEREAS, it was in 1985, while still a college student, when Trish began her long
13 and highly productive career as a legislative staffer, serving as a legislative aide in the
14 Senate and working in the legislative bureau; she also staffed Governor Buddy Roemer's
15 transition team while she was a student and later served as the intern for the Governmental
16 Affairs Division of HLS; she then served as a redistricting assistant in the office of former
17 HLS Director (and House Clerk) David R. Poynter before returning to what became her
18 longtime home on the seventh floor of the capitol as a full-time analyst with the House
19 Committee on House and Governmental Affairs; and

1 WHEREAS, under the House rules, the subject matter assigned to this committee
2 covers a tremendous amount of ground and requires an expansive depth and breadth of
3 knowledge – civil service, elections, governmental ethics, the apportionment of elected
4 officials and governing bodies, the creation of all legislative committees, the affairs of the
5 House, legislative rules and procedures, expenditures of funds by the legislature,
6 governmental reorganization, intergovernmental relations between the state and the United
7 States or other states, the capitol building and other capitol complex buildings, and
8 employees of the House, to name a few; and

9 WHEREAS, in part due to the committee's subject matter jurisdiction, and
10 particularly in terms of redistricting, Trish worked more closely with each individual
11 member than perhaps any other staffer; she had an encyclopedic knowledge of House
12 districts and the communities that members represent; she drew the maps, and she knew the
13 boundaries, the precincts, and the unique characteristics of constituents; at times she seemed
14 to know every back road of every parish, having either traveled there on the job or
15 painstakingly placed each one on a district map; this takes more than cartography skills – it
16 is complex and nuanced, both legally and politically, and she artfully and capably handled
17 these challenges every redistricting season for decades; and

18 WHEREAS, there are words used to describe people like "unique" and "singular" but
19 seldom has there been a person who embodies this sentiment more fully than Trish – she
20 simply is one of a kind – and it is nearly impossible to conceive of the state capitol without
21 her deep well of knowledge and her steady and steady presence; and

22 WHEREAS, in addition to her superb service to legislators, Trish served as a mentor
23 to other House staffers and as the exemplar of excellence in legislative staffing; she
24 demonstrated all of the ideals for which House staffers strive: she had a deep appreciation
25 for the principle of representative democracy; she was committed to maintaining the strength
26 of the legislature as a co-equal branch of government; she set the highest standard of conduct
27 in her objectivity; she met the most pressure-filled moments with unfailing calmness and
28 kindness; and echoing through the halls of every floor of the capitol when the most obscure
29 question was raised was the eternal refrain, "Let's ask Trish"; and

1 WHEREAS, one of Trish's most important roles was her service as the holder of the
2 institutional memory of the House, having served under Speakers Dimos, Alario, Downer,
3 DeWitt, Salter, Tucker, Kleckley, Barras, Schexnayder, and DeVillier; she witnessed and
4 played a role in untold moments of great significance in the history of this state; her memory
5 was the ultimate resource not only for how things were done, but why; and

6 WHEREAS, throughout the course of her long career, Trish had many offers and
7 invitations to pursue other ventures, but she remained loyal and faithful to the "People's
8 House" because she believed in it; she stood by it through the best and the most challenging
9 of times; members may have stood in the spotlight, but often they did so on a foundation that
10 she helped to lay for them with her guidance and expertise and by always telling them the
11 truth; and

12 WHEREAS, in addition to her many professional achievements inside this building,
13 Trish is devoted to her loving circle of family and friends, and it is the hope of the members
14 that she is enjoying the freedom granted by retirement to gather with them, to wander
15 through the farmer's market, to play with her granddaughter Zeaux, to celebrate family
16 birthdays and other important milestones, to ride her bike, to cheer on her favorite teams, to
17 practice yoga and tai chi, to advocate for causes close to her heart, and to cultivate her
18 beloved garden; and

19 WHEREAS, Trish's former division director, E. Anne Dunn, captures the essence of
20 her public service with these words: "The retirement of Patricia Lowrey-Dufour from the
21 staff of the House of Representatives is a milestone in the history of the institution. Her
22 departure will be a significant loss to the House, the legislature, and the people of Louisiana.
23 For so many years she has been a true mainstay in developing and formulating policy in a
24 wide range of areas, while being the go-to person for information about and improvement
25 in the legislative process"; and

26 WHEREAS, Patricia Lowrey-Dufour's contributions to the Louisiana Legislature
27 cannot be overstated, and she is recognized by every member and staffer for the special place
28 she occupies in the chronicles of the history of the state; and

1 WHEREAS, it is impossible to capture all that Trish means to this body in one
2 document, but House members hope that this serves as a record of profound admiration,
3 appreciation, and respect for someone who is truly a once-in-a-generation talent; and

4 WHEREAS, it is fitting to take proper notice of Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, an
5 extraordinary public servant, and to express the pride of the people of the state in this most
6 distinguished daughter of Louisiana.

7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
8 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Patricia Lowrey-Dufour for nearly four
9 decades of dedicated and incredibly effective service upon her retirement as the senior
10 legislative analyst for the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs with House
11 Legislative Services; does hereby record how she set the ultimate standard in legislative
12 staffing as a public servant; and does hereby express to her enduring appreciation for the
13 pride, honor, and joy she will forever bring to the House, to the legislature, and to the state
14 of Louisiana.

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 1 Original

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Beaulieu

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