

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 136

BY REPRESENTATIVE LOPINTO

CORRECTIONS: Directs the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to study the different methods of administering the death penalty

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To direct the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to study and make  
3 recommendations relative to the different forms of execution and the methods of  
4 execution to determine the best practices for administering the death penalty in the  
5 most humane manner.

6 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has ruled that capital punishment is  
7 not a per se violation of the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

8 WHEREAS, as a matter of public policy, the Louisiana Legislature has determined  
9 that a sentence of death is appropriate for certain offenses, including first degree murder and  
10 treason; and

11 WHEREAS, prior to 1991, the only method of execution which was authorized by  
12 law was by electrocution; and

13 WHEREAS, since 1991, the only method of execution which is authorized by law  
14 is by lethal injection; and

15 WHEREAS, the ability to obtain the drugs necessary to execute a sentence of death  
16 by lethal injection has become difficult in recent years; and

17 WHEREAS, the ability to execute a sentence of death is therefore controlled by the  
18 availability of those drugs; and

19 WHEREAS, investigating other methods of execution is necessary to address this  
20 issue; and

1           WHEREAS, there is a need to study the best practices in the administration of the  
2 death penalty.

3           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
4 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the Department of Public Safety and Corrections  
5 to study different methods of execution, including but not limited to firing squads, inert gas,  
6 electrocution, hanging, and lethal injection to determine the best practices for administering  
7 the death penalty in the most humane manner.

8           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study shall include recommendations for the  
9 procedures and protocols for the administration of the death penalty.

10          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections  
11 shall issue a written report to the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal  
12 Justice detailing their findings no later than January 1, 2015.

13          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
14 secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

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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)]

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Lopinto

HR No. 136

Directs the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to study and make recommendations relative to the different methods of execution to determine the best practices for administering the death penalty in the most humane manner.