

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 22

BY SENATOR JACKSON

A RESOLUTION

To create a study group to study the voting rights of persons who are incarcerated prior to trial and the procedures available to those persons to cast their ballots.

WHEREAS, voting is a civic duty of paramount importance; and

WHEREAS, the right to vote is protected by the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the immeasurable value one vote can have; and

WHEREAS, it is important that each Louisiana citizen who is eligible to vote be able to exercise that right; and

WHEREAS, persons who are incarcerated in institutions inside or outside the parish in which they are qualified to vote, but who are not under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony, including those incarcerated prior to trial, may still exercise their right to vote, and by doing so make their voices heard and participate in the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana is committed to exploring every possible means that may positively affect the potential for every eligible citizen to participate in the life of their community and state by voting.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create a study group to study the voting rights of persons who are incarcerated prior to trial and the procedures available to those persons to cast their ballots, including any means available, or that might be made available, to facilitate voting by those persons, and any impediments that exist to voting by those persons.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) The governor, or his designee.
- (2) The secretary of state, or his designee.
- (3) The deputy secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, corrections services, or his designee.
- (4) The state public defender, or his designee.
- (5) The executive director of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, or his designee.
- (6) The executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, or his designee.
- (7) The executive director of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, or his designee.
- (8) The executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana, or his designee.
- (9) The president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Louisiana State Conference, or his designee.
- (10) The executive director of Voice of the Experienced, or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the first meeting of the study group shall be called by the senator representing Senate District No. 34, and at its first meeting the study group shall select a chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group shall meet at such times and places as determined by its chair, and it may elect a vice chair and other officers as deemed necessary by the study group.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the study group shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled to as members of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the total membership shall constitute a quorum of the study group, and any official action by the study group shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group shall be staffed, at the discretion of the study group members, by the staff of one or more of the entities from which the study group's membership is designated or appointed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group shall make a written report of its findings, and any recommendations it may have, to the Senate of the Louisiana Legislature, and as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, by February 1, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the governor, the secretary of state, the deputy secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, corrections services, the state public defender, the executive director of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana, the president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Louisiana State Conference, and the executive director of Voice of the Experienced.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE