

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 184

BY SENATORS CATHEY, BASS, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CONNICK, FESI, HENRY,  
JACKSON-ANDREWS, JENKINS, KLEINPETER, LUNEAU,  
MCMATH, MILLER, PRESSLY, PRICE, SEABAUGH, STINE,  
WHEAT AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Supreme Court to take appropriate action to allow full-time legislative staff attorneys who are licensed to practice in the state to receive eight hours of continuing education credit each year for legislative service.

WHEREAS, in the Rules of the Supreme Court of Louisiana, the Supreme Court adopted RULE XXX of PART H of the RULES FOR CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION; and

WHEREAS, Rule 2 of Rule XXX of Part H states "[T]hese Rules shall apply to every attorney licensed to practice law...", and lists certain listed exceptions such as age, residence outside the state and not engaged in the practice of law, or members of Congress; and

WHEREAS, Rule 3 of Rule XXX of Part H requires every attorney licensed to practice law is to attend or complete an approved substitute for attendance, a minimum of twelve and one-half hours (12.5) hours of approved continuing legal education (CLE) each calendar year with not less than one (1) of such hours shall concern legal ethics, and not less than one (1) of such hours shall concern professionalism; and

WHEREAS, Regulation 3.15 of Rule 3 of Rule XXX of Part H of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Louisiana exempts the governor from these requirements, it further grants eight hours of CLE credit each year to each member of the Louisiana Legislature; to the person serving as secretary of the Senate; and to the person serving as clerk of the House of Representatives of the Louisiana Legislature; and

WHEREAS, legislators attend the regular sessions of the legislature as well as extraordinary sessions which may be convened at other times by the governor or by the presiding officers of both houses; and

WHEREAS, full-time legislative staff attorneys are an integral part of the legislative process performing numerous activities and duties, conducting year-round legal research and bill drafting involving multiple subject areas of the law in proposed legislation, facilitating meetings to educate and brief legislators on the legislative process and the issues and legal knowledge necessary to adequately debate pending legislation; and

WHEREAS, staff attorneys work with each legislator as they focus on individual bills involving different subject matter areas to draft bills, amendments, and provide advice as to the proper legislative procedure; and

WHEREAS, the main goal of a legislative staff attorney is to ensure that legislation is clear, concise, legally correct, and provides for good governance; and

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

WHEREAS, considering that legislative staff attorneys conduct research and draft legislation that ultimately becomes law in our state, these attorneys should receive CLE credit for their knowledge and work in the legislative process.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Supreme Court of Louisiana to take appropriate action to allow full-time legislative staff attorneys who are licensed to practice law in this state to receive eight hours of CLE credit each year similar to that provided in Regulation 3.15 of Rule XXX of Part H of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Louisiana for legislators and the legislative chief clerical officers.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE