

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 161

BY REPRESENTATIVES LANDRY AND DIXON

JUDGES: Requests an examination of the structure of the judiciary by the La. Supreme Court

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Supreme Court to conduct an examination of the court
3 system in this state to determine if the existing structure of the judiciary is the most
4 appropriate use of judicial resources, to develop a formula for the legislature to use
5 in determining the appropriate number of judges in each geographic region in this
6 state, and to report its findings and recommendations to the legislature prior to
7 February 1, 2012.

8 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of this state that the judiciary
9 work as efficiently as possible; and

10 WHEREAS, citizens who are involved in litigation have an expectation that legal
11 issues will be resolved in a reasonable amount of time thereby avoiding costly delays in civil
12 and criminal court; and

13 WHEREAS, citizens of this state also expect a sufficient number of judges in each
14 geographic area to handle the workload in that judicial district; and

15 WHEREAS, a thorough examination of the existing judicial structure is necessary
16 to determine if the existing structure is the most appropriate use of judicial resources; and

17 WHEREAS, this examination shall include a review of all judicial district courts and
18 the number of judges within each judicial district; and

19 WHEREAS, factors to be studied include caseload, use of support personnel, case
20 filing data, population, and the availability of parish courts, city courts, and justice of the
21 peace courts in each judicial district; and

1 WHEREAS, the Judicial Council was created by the Louisiana Legislature in 2003
2 and is required by the provisions of R.S. 13:61 to "adopt determinate standards and
3 guidelines" in determining whether new judgeships should be created and whether it is
4 necessary to split or merge the courts of appeal, district courts, city courts, parish courts,
5 juvenile courts, family courts, traffic courts, and municipal courts; and

6 WHEREAS, R.S. 13:61(E) specifically provides that the Judicial Council shall
7 review judicial districts and provide information and recommendations to the legislature on
8 the "appropriate number of district court judgeships within each district based upon caseload,
9 population, or other pertinent factors".

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
11 urge and request the Louisiana Supreme Court to conduct an examination of the court system
12 in this state to determine if the existing structure of the judiciary is the most appropriate use
13 of judicial resources, to develop a formula the legislature may use in determining the
14 appropriate number of judges in each geographic region in this state, and to reports its
15 findings and recommendations to the legislature prior to February 1, 2012.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
17 Supreme Court 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)]

Landry

HCR No. 161

Requests the La. Supreme Court to conduct an examination of the court system in this state to determine if the existing structure of the judiciary is the most appropriate use of judicial resources, to develop a formula the legislature may use in determining the appropriate number of judges for each geographic region, and to report its findings and recommendations to the legislature prior to Feb. 1, 2012.