HLS 13RS-2232 ENGROSSED

Regular Session, 2013

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 129

BY REPRESENTATIVE BROADWATER

PUBLIC RECORDS: Directs each public body that has a custodian of public records to make the identity and contact information of the custodian available to the public

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To direct each public body that has a custodian of public records to make the identity and
3	contact information of its custodian available to the public in a manner that will
4	allow a member of the public to quickly determine the appropriate person to whom
5	a public records request should be submitted, including by placing such information
6	on the Internet.
7	WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana recognizes the right of the people of the
8	state to participate directly in the affairs of government in providing, in Article XII,
9	Section 3, that no person shall be denied the right to examine public documents, except as
0	provided by law; and
1	WHEREAS, the legislature enacted the Public Records Law to provide relative to
12	this right; and
13	WHEREAS, the Public Records Law applies to each "public body", which term is
14	defined to include any branch, department, office, agency, board, commission, district,
15	governing authority, political subdivision, or any committee, subcommittee, advisory board,
16	or task force thereof, any other instrumentality of state, parish, or municipal government,
17	including a public or quasi-public nonprofit corporation designated as an entity to perform
18	a governmental or proprietary function, or an affiliate of a housing authority; and
19	WHEREAS, the Public Records Law establishes a framework for the ready
20	availability of public records to requesting persons; and

1	WHEREAS, the Public Records Law specifically provides that it is the duty of the
2	custodian of the public records of a public body to provide copies to persons so requesting;
3	and
4	WHEREAS, the identity and contact information for most custodians of public
5	records are not readily available to members of the public; and
6	WHEREAS, many public bodies contain other public bodies which may have their
7	own custodians, although this is not always the case; and
8	WHEREAS, it is therefore difficult in many instances for a member of the public to
9	determine to whom a public records request should be submitted; and
10	WHEREAS, this difficulty increases the time and expense involved in examining
11	public records and thereby impedes the public's ability to exercise this important right
12	granted in the constitution; and
13	WHEREAS, the Internet has become an important resource for the public to obtain
14	important information, including information concerning government.
15	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
16	direct each public body that has a custodian of public records to make the identity and
17	contact information of its custodian available to the public in a manner that will allow a
18	member of the public to quickly determine the appropriate person to whom a public records
19	request should be submitted, including by placing such information on the Internet.
20	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
21	chief justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana, each statewide elected official, the chief
22	executive officer of each department in the executive branch of state government, the
23	speaker of the House of Representatives, the president of the Senate, the Louisiana
24	Municipal Association, the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, and the Louisiana School
25	Boards Association.

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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)]

Broadwater HCR No. 129

Directs each public body that has a custodian of public records to make the identity and contact information of its custodian available to the public in a manner that will allow a member of the public to quickly determine the appropriate person to whom a public records request should be submitted, including by placing such information on the Internet.