HLS 15RS-489 ENGROSSED

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 134

BY REPRESENTATIVE LOPINTO

FUNDS/FUNDING: Creates the Criminal Justice Funding Commission

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To create the Criminal Justice Funding Commission to study and make recommendations
3	to the legislature for the development of a more unified, stable, and statewide
4	funding structure for the fair, efficient, and effective administration of the criminal
5	justice system.
6	WHEREAS, the existence of a fair, efficient, and equitable criminal justice system
7	is essential to the administration of justice; and
8	WHEREAS, adequate financial resources for the work of all components of the
9	criminal justice system, including the courts, law enforcement, prosecution, public defense
10	counsel, and corrections is integral to a properly functioning criminal justice system; and
11	WHEREAS, no component of the criminal justice system can function effectively
12	without reasonable resources; and
13	WHEREAS, the membership of the Louisiana State Bar Association has previously
14	adopted resolutions in 2007, 2010, 2011, and 2013 aimed at adequately funding Louisiana's
15	criminal justice system by seeking to address multiple issues within that system; and
16	WHEREAS, each year the Louisiana State Bar Association Criminal Justice
17	Committee convenes a statewide summit to identify issues of shared concern for the entire
18	criminal justice system and to build consensus around actionable solutions to those issues;
19	and
20	WHEREAS, in the 2014 summit, criminal justice leaders from across the state
21	explored the issue of strategic funding reform for Louisiana's criminal justice system and

1	found that current methods of funding many components of the criminal justice system result
2	in unpredictable revenue streams, underfunded budgets, and severe restrictions of essential
3	services; and
4	WHEREAS, participants in the 2014 summit recommended that in order to resolve
5	unpredictability, inadequacy, and inefficiency of funding for essential components for the
6	criminal justice system, the Legislature of Louisiana should request a study of the possibility
7	of instituting a statewide general fund for criminal justice agencies; and
8	WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon this state to develop and implement the changes
9	necessary to optimize public safety resources and make strategic investments across our
10	public safety system; and
11	WHEREAS, holding public safety paramount and considering the issues that impact
12	diverse stakeholders of the criminal justice system, this legislature is dedicated to making
13	a comprehensive set of reforms that yield a more fair and effective criminal justice system;
14	and
15	WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana has the power to authorize and direct the
16	study of and make recommendations for the revision of laws impacting our criminal justice
17	agencies.
18	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
19	establish the Criminal Justice Funding Commission to study and make recommendations to
20	the legislature for the development of a more unified, stable, and statewide funding structure
21	for the fair, efficient, and effective administration of the criminal justice system.
22	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall be comprised of the
23	following members:
24	(1) One member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate, or the
25	member's designee, who shall serve as co-chairperson of the commission.
26	(2) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the
27	House, or the member's designee, who shall serve as co-chairperson of the commission.
28	(3) A district attorney appointed by the Louisiana District Attorneys Association,
29	or his designee.

1 (4) A public defender appointed by the Louisiana Public Defender Board, or his 2 designee. 3 (5) A person selected by the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and 4 Corrections, or his designee. 5 (6) A person selected by the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association, or his designee. 6 (7) The legislative auditor, or his designee. 7 (8) A member of the Louisiana Sentencing Commission to be selected by the 8 chairman of the Louisiana Sentencing Commission, or his designee. 9 (9) A person appointed by the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, or his 10 designee. 11 (10) A sheriff appointed by the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, or his designee. 12 (11) The superintendent of state police, or his designee. 13 (12) A person appointed by the governor, or his designee. 14 (13) The president of the Louisiana State Bar Association, or his designee. 15 (14) An attorney appointed by the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense 16 Lawyers, or his designee. 17 (15) A person appointed by the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, or his 18 designee. 19 (16) A person appointed by the Pelican Institute for Public Policy, or his designee. 20 (17) A person appointed by Louisiana Budget Project, or his designee. 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the development of these recommendations, 22 the commission shall review how other states fund their core criminal justice functions 23 including but not limited to law enforcement, corrections, prosecution, public defense, and 24 the courts; how Louisiana currently funds the criminal justice system; and how Louisiana 25 could potentially restructure its current funding scheme to implement evidence-based, best 26 practices. 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall submit its 28 recommendations to the House and Senate committees on the administration of criminal 29 justice, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and the president of the Senate by 30 February 1, 2016.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted

to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate.

## **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

Creates the Criminal Justice Funding Commission made up of a representative from all of the following entities to study and make recommendations to the legislature for the development of a more unified, stable, and statewide funding structure for the fair, efficient, and effective administration of the criminal justice system: La. Senate, La. House of Representatives, La. District Attorneys Assoc., La. Public Defender Board, Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, La. Clerks of Court Assoc., legislative auditor, La. Sentencing Commission, La. Supreme Court, La. Sheriffs' Assoc., state police, governor's office, La. State Bar Assoc., La. Assoc. of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Public Affairs Research Council of La., Pelican Institute for Public Policy, and La. Budget Project.