

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 179

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

WEAPONS/FIREARMS: Creates the Firearm Safety Task Force

1                                   A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2   To establish the Firearm Safety Task Force to study and make recommendations on actions  
3           necessary to prevent firearm violence and firearm accidents and to encourage  
4           responsible firearm ownership practices among Louisiana's citizens.

5           WHEREAS, Article I, Section 11 of the Constitution of Louisiana guarantees the  
6   fundamental right of Louisiana citizens to keep and bear arms which shall not be infringed;  
7   and

8           WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has a compelling interest in protecting the citizens  
9   of this state; and

10          WHEREAS, ensuring the safe and effective use of firearms is a responsibility which  
11   is of paramount importance; and

12          WHEREAS, Louisiana, like many states, has a high crime rate and the state is  
13   adversely affected by firearm violence; and

14          WHEREAS, Louisiana has a large population of firearm owners; and

15          WHEREAS, Louisiana has significant rural and urban populations, and both are  
16   affected by firearm violence; and

17          WHEREAS, public policy is best shaped by bringing together diverse viewpoints and  
18   finding common ground.

19          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana shall establish  
20   the Firearm Safety Task Force to study public safety, public protection, and firearm safety.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall comprehensively investigate  
2 the causes and costs of firearm violence and firearm accidents in Louisiana. The task force  
3 shall investigate relevant contributing factors, including but not limited to:

4 (1) The current state of regulation of firearm ownership by the mentally ill.

5 (2) The utility and safety issues posed by various types of weapons in use in  
6 Louisiana, including handguns, shotguns, and various types of rifles.

7 (3) The potential costs and benefits of a waiting period for all firearm purchases in  
8 Louisiana.

9 (4) The potential costs and benefits of requiring background checks for all firearm  
10 purchases in Louisiana.

11 (5) The potential costs and benefits of allowing local governments to regulate  
12 firearms in order to address local needs.

13 (6) An evaluation of the impact of a culture of violence on the citizens of Louisiana.

14 (7) The availability of so-called junk firearms or "Saturday night specials".

15 (8) The circumstances and prevalence of violent crimes against police officers.

16 (9) An analysis of existing data on the use of firearms in violent crimes in the state  
17 of Louisiana, including:

18 (a) The type of firearm involved.

19 (b) Whether it was fired.

20 (c) Whether injuries or fatalities resulted.

21 (d) Whether the firearm was owned by the perpetrator, by an intended victim, or by  
22 another party.

23 (e) The differences in the use of firearms in violent crimes in urban and rural areas.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the  
25 following members:

26 (1) One member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the  
27 House of Representatives and designated to serve as co-chair.

28 (2) One member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate and  
29 designated to serve as co-chair.

30 (3) One representative from the Louisiana Chapter of the National Rifle Association.

1           (4) The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections or his  
2 designee.

3           (5) The federal-state coordinator for the Occupational Safety and Health Program  
4 within the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

5           (6) One representative of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.

6           (7) One representative of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

7           (8) One representative of the Office of the Governor.

8           (9) One representative of the Louisiana Sheriff's Association.

9           (10) One representative of the Louisiana Board of Emergency Medical Services.

10          (11) One physician representative of the Louisiana Hospital Association.

11          (12) One representative of the office of behavioral health of the Department of  
12 Health and Hospitals.

13          (13) One representative of the office of public health of the Department of Health  
14 and Hospitals.

15          (14) Two representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, including one  
16 associated with processing federal firearms background checks, chosen by the Special Agent  
17 in Charge of the New Orleans Division.

18          (15) One representative of the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops.

19          (16) One representative of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of  
20 Social Workers.

21          (17) One representative of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Alliance for Mental  
22 Illness.

23          (18) One representative of the Coalition for Louisiana Progress.

24          (19) One representative of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

25                 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this task force shall submit  
26 recommendations to the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice and the  
27 Senate Committee on Judiciary C no later than January 15, 2016.

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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2015 Regular Session

James

Creates the Firearm Safety Task Force to study and make recommendations on actions necessary to prevent firearm violence and firearm accidents and to encourage responsible firearm ownership practices among Louisiana's citizens, and to report its findings to the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice and the Senate Committee on Judiciary C no later than Jan. 15, 2016.