

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 142

BY REPRESENTATIVE LOPINTO

A RESOLUTION

To direct the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to study and make recommendations relative to the different forms of execution and the methods of execution to determine the best practices for administering the death penalty in the most humane manner.

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has ruled that capital punishment is not a per se violation of the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, as a matter of public policy, the Louisiana Legislature has determined that a sentence of death is appropriate for certain offenses, including first degree murder and treason; and

WHEREAS, prior to 1991, the only method of execution which was authorized by law was by electrocution; and

WHEREAS, since 1991, the only method of execution which is authorized by law is by lethal injection; and

WHEREAS, the ability to obtain the drugs necessary to execute a sentence of death by lethal injection has become difficult in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the ability to execute a sentence of death is therefore controlled by the availability of those drugs; and

WHEREAS, investigating other methods of execution is necessary to address this issue; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to study the best practices in the administration of the death penalty.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to study different methods of execution to determine the best practices for administering the death penalty in the most humane manner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study shall include recommendations for the procedures and protocols for the administration of the death penalty.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall issue a written report to the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice detailing their findings no later than January 1, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES