

1 WHEREAS, according to the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence from
2 2010 through 2012 there were 178 deaths due to domestic violence and of those 74% were
3 committed with firearms and 37% of the offenders had a prior history of domestic violence
4 or other violent crimes and there were 16 multiple victim incidents resulting in 35 deaths,
5 practically all of which were committed with firearms; and

6 WHEREAS, in Louisiana, the murder rate most recently measured at 40% higher
7 than the national average and has been twice the national average in recent years, with more
8 than eighty percent of women being murdered by a husband, partner, or ex-partner; and

9 WHEREAS, the state has a higher than average rate of multiple-death domestic
10 violence incidents; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2012 there was an increase of 800 crisis calls to the statewide hotline,
12 about a 15% rise over 2011; Louisiana's eighteen domestic violence centers received over
13 35,000 calls in 2012, and the Metropolitan Center for Women and Children, which serves
14 the parishes of Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, St. Tammany, St. Charles, St.
15 John the Baptist, and St. James, received 5,000 calls in 2013; and

16 WHEREAS, in a survey of one 24-hour period on September 17, 2013, in Louisiana
17 there were 721 domestic violence victims and their children who received services; 334 calls
18 to domestic violence hotlines were answered; 167 requests from domestic violence victims
19 were turned down because programs did not have the resources to provide them; and 34%
20 of unmet requests were from victims who had chosen to flee their abusers, and were seeking
21 safe emergency or transitional housing; and

22 WHEREAS, it is crucial that a comprehensive review of all existing public and
23 private domestic violence programs be undertaken to identify gaps in prevention and
24 intervention services and to increase coordination among public and private programs to
25 strengthen prevention and intervention services in Louisiana.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Domestic Violence Prevention
27 Commission is hereby created to:

28 (1) Assist local and state leaders in developing and coordinating domestic violence
29 programs.

30 (2) Conduct a continuing comprehensive review of all existing public and private

1 domestic violence programs to identify gaps in prevention and intervention services and to
2 increase coordination among public and private programs to strengthen prevention and
3 intervention services.

4 (3) Make recommendations with respect to domestic violence prevention and
5 intervention.

6 (4) Develop a state needs assessment and a comprehensive and integrated service
7 delivery approach that meets the needs of all domestic violence victims.

8 (5) Establish a method to transition domestic violence service providers toward
9 evidence-based national best practices focusing on outreach and prevention.

10 (6) Develop a plan that ensures state laws on domestic violence are properly
11 implemented and provides training to law enforcement and the judiciary.

12 (7) Develop a framework to collect and integrate data and measure program
13 outcomes.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall be composed of eighteen
15 members as follows:

16 (1) The executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association or his designee.

17 (2) The executive director of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence or
18 his designee.

19 (3) The executive director of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association or his
20 designee.

21 (4) The executive director of the New Orleans Family Justice Center or his designee.

22 (5) The chair of the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus or her designee.

23 (6) The chairman of the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice
24 or his designee.

25 (7) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary B or his designee.

26 (8) One district court judge with experience in criminal law matters, selected by the
27 president of the Louisiana District Court Judges Association.

28 (9) One district court judge with experience in family law matters, selected by the
29 president of the Louisiana District Court Judges Association.

30 (10) The president of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association or his designee.

1 (11) One representative of the Department of Justice, office of the attorney general
2 or his designee.

3 (12) The executive director of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and
4 Administration of Criminal Justice or his designee.

5 (13) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services or his
6 designee.

7 (14) The secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals or his designee.

8 (15) One representative of the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
9 or his designee.

10 (16) One representative of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
11 or his designee.

12 (17) One attorney licensed to practice law in this state who has at least five years
13 experience in representing victims of domestic violence who seek protective orders
14 appointed by the governor.

15 (18) The executive director of a shelter-based or direct service program provider for
16 victims of domestic violence appointed by the governor.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

18 (1) The commission shall select one of the commission members to serve as
19 chairman and another member shall be selected by the commission members as secretary.

20 (2) Members of the commission shall serve for a term concurrent with that of the
21 governor.

22 (3) Commission members shall serve without compensation or per diem, except that
23 legislative members of the commission shall receive the same per diem and reimbursement
24 of travel expenses as is provided for legislative committees under the rules of the respective
25 house.

26 (4) The commission shall hold public meetings quarterly except as otherwise
27 provided by vote of the commission or by order of the chairman.

28 (5) A majority of the commission membership shall constitute a quorum for the
29 transaction of business.

30 (6) The commission may establish subcommittees within the commission and

1 appoint members to those subcommittees, including persons outside of the commission
2 membership, as it deems necessary and appropriate to accomplish its goals.

3 (7) The Department of Children and Family Services shall provide to the
4 commission such clerical, administrative, and technical assistance and support as may be
5 necessary to enable the commission to accomplish its goals.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall seek input from, and
7 engage in dialogue with, the Louisiana Sentencing Commission, regarding domestic violence
8 and its victims and perpetrators, particularly with regard to a review of Louisiana's
9 sentencing structure seeking to ensure the imposition of appropriate and just criminal
10 sanctions and to make the most efficient use of the correctional system and community
11 resources.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall foster public policies,
13 human service reforms, and community support that more effectively meet the needs of
14 today's vulnerable children and families who are victims of domestic violence, particularly
15 the restoration of normalcy for both the victims and perpetrators of domestic violence.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall annually issue a report of
17 its findings and recommendations to the governor, the speaker of the House of
18 Representatives, and the president of the Senate, with its initial report being submitted on
19 or before February 1, 2015, and no later than the first day of February each year thereafter.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report may include any recommendations
21 for legislation that it deems necessary and appropriate provided that legislation may only be
22 recommended by the commission upon approval by a two-thirds vote of the commission
23 members present.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
25 the executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the executive director of the
26 Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence or his designee, the executive director of
27 the Louisiana District Attorneys Association or his designee, the executive director of the
28 New Orleans Family Justice Center or his designee, the chair of the Louisiana Legislative
29 Women's Caucus or her designee, the president of the Louisiana District Court Judges
30 Association, the president of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association, the attorney general,

1 the executive director of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and
 2 Administration of Criminal Justice, the secretary of the Department of Children and Family
 3 Services, the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, the Louisiana Association
 4 of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives,
 5 the Louisiana Sentencing Commission, and the governor.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

DIGEST

Brown

SCR No. 118

Creates the Louisiana Domestic Violence Prevention Commission to:

- (1) Assist local and state leaders in developing and coordinating domestic violence programs.
- (2) Conduct a continuing comprehensive review of all existing public and private domestic violence programs to identify gaps in prevention and intervention services and to increase coordination among public and private programs to strengthen prevention and intervention services.
- (3) Make recommendations with respect to domestic violence prevention and intervention.
- (4) Develop a state needs assessment and a comprehensive and integrated service delivery approach that meets the needs of all domestic violence victims.
- (5) Establish a method to transition domestic violence service providers toward evidence-based national best practices focusing on outreach and prevention.
- (6) Develop a plan that ensures state laws on domestic violence are properly implemented and provides training to law enforcement and the judiciary.
- (7) Develop a framework to collect and integrate data and measure program outcomes.

Provides that the commission shall be composed of 18 members as follows:

- (1) The executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association or his designee.
- (2) The executive director of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence or his designee.
- (3) The executive director of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association or his designee.
- (4) The executive director of the New Orleans Family Justice Center or his designee.
- (5) The chair of the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus or her designee.
- (6) The chairman of the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice or his designee.
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- (8) One district court judge with experience in criminal law matters, selected by the president of the Louisiana District Court Judges Association.
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- (11) One representative of the Department of Justice, office of the attorney general or his designee.
- (12) The executive director of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice or his designee.
- (13) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services or his designee.
- (14) The secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals or his designee.
- (15) One representative of the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers or his designee.
- (16) One representative of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives or his designee.
- (17) One attorney licensed to practice law in this state who has at least five years experience in representing victims of domestic violence who seek protective orders appointed by the governor.
- (18) The executive director of a shelter-based or direct service program provider for victims of domestic violence appointed by the governor.

Provides that:

- (1) The commission shall select one of the commission members to serve as chairman and another member shall be selected by the commission members as secretary.
- (2) Members of the commission shall serve for a term concurrent with that of the governor.
- (3) Commission members shall serve without compensation or per diem, except that legislative members of the commission shall receive the same per diem and reimbursement of travel expenses as is provided for legislative committees under the rules of the respective house.
- (4) The commission shall hold public meetings quarterly except as otherwise provided by vote of the commission or by order of the chairman.
- (5) A majority of the commission membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- (6) The commission may establish subcommittees within the commission and appoint members to those subcommittees, including persons outside of the commission membership, as it deems necessary and appropriate to accomplish its goals.
- (7) The Department of Children and Family Services shall provide to the commission such clerical, administrative, and technical assistance and support as may be necessary to enable the commission to accomplish its goals.

Requires that the commission annually issue a report of its findings and recommendations

to the governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and the president of the Senate, with its initial report being submitted on or before February 1, 2015, and no later than the first day of February each year thereafter. Provides that the report may include any recommendations for legislation that it deems necessary and appropriate provided that legislation may only be recommended by the commission upon approval by a two-thirds vote of the commission members present.