

2017 First Extraordinary Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 5

BY SENATOR COLOMB

SENATE. Provides for discipline of a member of the Senate.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To formally discipline and censure Senator Troy E. Brown for misconduct while serving as
3 a member of the Louisiana State Senate.

4 WHEREAS, Senator Troy E. Brown was arrested and booked in New Orleans,
5 Louisiana, on November 28, 2015, on suspicion of domestic abuse battery; and

6 WHEREAS, Senator Brown was accused of punching a girlfriend after an argument
7 in a New Orleans hotel; and

8 WHEREAS, on September 14, 2016, Senator Brown pled no contest to simple
9 battery to this charge; and

10 WHEREAS, a plea of *nolo contendere*, or no contest, has a similar effect as pleading
11 guilty to the crime; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Brown was again arrested on July 17, 2016, and charged with
13 domestic abuse battery; and

14 WHEREAS, Senator Brown was accused of biting his spouse during an argument at
15 his Geismar home; and

16 WHEREAS, on January 11, 2017, Senator Brown again pled no contest to the
17 July 17, 2016, charge of domestic abuse battery, marking his second plea within a
18 four-month time period; and

1 WHEREAS, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence defines domestic
2 violence as the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other
3 abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one
4 intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, threats, and
5 emotional abuse; and

6 WHEREAS, Louisiana ranks fourth in the nation for the rate of women murdered by
7 men; and

8 WHEREAS, the 2010 Summary Report for the National Center for Injury Prevention
9 and Control indicated that over five thousand adult women per year living in Louisiana will
10 experience domestic violence; and

11 WHEREAS, according to information published by the Louisiana Coalition Against
12 Domestic Violence, Louisiana leads the nation in domestic homicides and has done so since
13 1997 with at least one domestic homicide in every parish of the state in 2009, and with a
14 total of seventy-one deaths statewide in 2011; and

15 WHEREAS, domestic violence assails an individual's right to dignity, security, and
16 humanity; inflicts physical, emotional, and financial injury on its victims; and exists in every
17 segment of our population; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2015, the Louisiana Legislature enacted a compendium of legislation
19 aimed at strengthening its laws against domestic violence; and

20 WHEREAS, the members of the Senate of the Legislature do not condone domestic
21 abuse violence in any form and wherever it may occur, and hereby determine that the
22 commission of the crime of domestic violence by a member of the Senate violates his sworn
23 oath of office to "support the constitution and laws of this state", commits disorderly
24 conduct, and is misconduct in office in the highest form; and

25 WHEREAS, all public officers have a duty to obey the law and Senator Brown's
26 actions have displayed a blatant disregard for the law which has breached the public's trust;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Senator Brown's disregard for the law in committing domestic abuse
29 violence brings dishonor and disrepute to the Senate as a body; and

30 WHEREAS, Article III, Section 7 of the Constitution of Louisiana provides that each

1 house of the legislature may punish its members for disorderly conduct or contempt; and

2 WHEREAS, Chapter 17 of the Senate Rules of Order provides for the manner in
3 which a member may be subjected to disciplinary action under the authority granted by the
4 Constitution of Louisiana.

5 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Legislature of the state of
6 Louisiana, that Senator Troy E. Brown be disciplined and censured as follows:

7 (1) That Senator Troy E. Brown be fined in the amount of two thousand five hundred
8 dollars. The amount of the fine shall be paid personally by Senator Brown and shall be made
9 payable to the Louisiana Coalition for Domestic Violence immediately upon the effective
10 date of this Resolution.

11 (2) That Senator Troy E. Brown shall refrain from participation in each Senate
12 committee of which he is a member, shall refrain from voting on any question at any
13 meeting of the Senate or on any ballot of the Senate and shall refrain from exercising any
14 Senatorial function for six weeks from the payment of the fine provided in this Resolution,
15 or six weeks from the effective date of this Resolution, whichever is later.

16 (3) That Senator Troy E. Brown shall enroll in a domestic violence course sanctioned
17 or approved by the Twenty-third Judicial District Court for six months, beginning from the
18 effective date of this resolution. Upon completion of the course, written documentation shall
19 be provided to the president of the Senate.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the president of the Senate is hereby authorized
21 and directed and without delay, to officially notify Troy E. Brown in writing of the discipline
22 ordered by the Senate, accompanied by a certified copy of this Resolution.

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

DIGEST

SR 5 Original

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