



**LOUISIANA STATE LAW INSTITUTE**

PAUL M. HEBERT LAW CENTER, ROOM W127

UNIVERSITY STATION

BATON ROUGE, LA 70803-1016

(225) 578-0200

FAX: (225) 578-0211

EMAIL: LAWINSTITUTE@LSLI.ORG

WWW.LSLI.ORG

January 26, 2022

Representative Clay Schexnayder  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 94062  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Senator Patrick Page Cortez  
President of the Senate  
P.O. Box 94183  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

**RE: HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7 OF THE 2020 FIRST  
EXTRAORDINARY SESSION**

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

The Louisiana State Law Institute respectfully submits its interim report to the legislature relative to language in the Constitution of Louisiana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Guy Holdridge".

Guy Holdridge  
Director

cc: Representative Barry Ivey

email cc: David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library  
[drplibrary@legis.la.gov](mailto:drplibrary@legis.la.gov)

Secretary of State, Mr. R. Kyle Ardoin  
[admin@sos.louisiana.gov](mailto:admin@sos.louisiana.gov)

**LOUISIANA STATE LAW INSTITUTE  
CONSTITUTIONAL LAWS COMMITTEE**

**INTERIM REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE IN RESPONSE TO  
HCR NO. 7 OF THE 2020 FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION**

**Relative to language in the Constitution of Louisiana**

Prepared for the  
Louisiana Legislature on

**January 26, 2022**

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**LOUISIANA STATE LAW INSTITUTE  
CONSTITUTIONAL LAWS COMMITTEE**

L. David Cromwell	Shreveport
Cordell H. Haymon	Baton Rouge
Ashley J. Heilprin	New Orleans
Joseph W. Mengis	Baton Rouge
Sally Brown Richardson	New Orleans
James A. Stuckey	New Orleans

\* \* \* \* \*

Charles S. Weems, III, Reporter  
Mallory C. Waller, Staff Attorney

2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY REPRESENTATIVE IVEY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To authorize and direct the Louisiana State Law Institute to study and make recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana regarding language in the Constitution of Louisiana that is outdated or transitional in nature and which can be removed or updated without affecting the effect of the constitutional provisions.

WHEREAS, it has been more than forty-five years since the Constitution of Louisiana became effective at midnight on December 31, 1974, and during these years the document which constitutes the state's basic law has been amended some one hundred ninety-seven times; and

WHEREAS, the language of the Constitution of Louisiana has not been studied broadly since it became effective and the legislature recognizes the importance for legal scholars to review the language to determine if there are updates or modifications to the language that should be made without changing the meaning and effect of the law.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby authorize and direct the Louisiana State Law Institute to study and make recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana regarding language in the Constitution of Louisiana that is outdated or transitional in nature and which can be removed or updated without affecting the effect of the constitutional provisions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Law Institute should further identify language in the constitution that is legally unnecessary, redundant, or obsolete; language that from an organizational or structural perspective should either be placed elsewhere in the constitution or should be reworded; and language that either from a best practice or comparative perspective is unusual or most commonly located in statute.

HCR NO. 7

**ENROLLED**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Law Institute shall submit its findings and recommendations to each member of the legislature no later than February 1, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the director of the Louisiana State Law Institute.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

January 26, 2022

To: Representative Clay Schexnayder  
Speaker of the House  
P.O. Box 94062  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Senator Patrick Page Cortez  
President of the Senate  
P.O. Box 94183  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

**INTERIM REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE IN RESPONSE TO  
HCR NO. 7 OF THE 2020 FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION**

House Concurrent Resolution No. 7 of the 2020 First Extraordinary Session authorizes and directs the Louisiana State Law Institute to study and make recommendations regarding language in the Constitution that is outdated or transitional in nature and that can be removed or updated without affecting the meaning of the constitutional provisions. The resolution further asks the Law Institute to identify language in the Constitution that is legally unnecessary, redundant, or obsolete; that, from an organizational or structural perspective, should be relocated in or removed from the Constitution; and that, from a best practice or comparative perspective, is unusual or most commonly located in statute.

In response to these requests, the Law Institute assigned the project to its Constitutional Laws Committee, which operates under the direction of Mr. Charles S. Weems, III as Reporter. With respect to the first directive, each article of the Constitution has been reviewed, and the identification of language that can be removed or updated without affecting the substance of the constitutional provisions is nearing completion. The Committee plans to meet in the next month to begin finalizing its recommendations with respect to this language and will submit its proposals to the Legislature after they are approved by the Law Institute's Council.

The Committee will then turn its attention to the second of the resolution's requests – identifying language that is legally unnecessary or obsolete, should be located elsewhere in or removed from the Constitution, and, from a best practice or comparative perspective, is unusual or most commonly located in statute. The Committee plans to meet over the coming year to compare the Constitution of Louisiana with that of several other states and of the United States as well as to review additional research in formulating its recommendations with respect to this directive. A final report will be submitted to the Legislature once the Committee's recommendations have been approved by the Law Institute's Council.