

Regular Session, 2008

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

BY REPRESENTATIVES CONNICK AND MORRELL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to develop and implement a policy which allows for certified copies of state identification cards to be used as substantiating documentation in obtaining a duplicate or replacement identification card.

WHEREAS, United States Eastern District Court Judge Jay C. Zainey created the Homeless Experience Legal Protection (HELP) program under which approximately five hundred attorneys, notaries, and law firms provide legal consultation and notary services on a scheduled basis at homeless centers and shelters in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Lafayette, and Shreveport, as well as other cities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the HELP program in assisting the homeless has recognized a major problem and the tremendous difficulties a homeless person may face when an identification (ID) card is lost, particularly the countless hours the homeless shelter staff members spend assisting the person in obtaining the substantiating documentation to prove his identity in obtaining a duplicate or replacement ID card, a process which takes an average of thirty days, during which time this person is literally living on the streets; and

WHEREAS, ID cards are the lifeline of the homeless population, and without an ID card, a homeless person is unable to spend the night in a homeless center or shelter, cash a social security or veterans administration check, or be treated at a hospital; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana must assist with this endeavor that critically affects the homeless population that exists in our state by developing and implementing a policy by which a person is entitled to obtain a duplicate or replacement ID card upon presentation of a certified copy of the lost ID card.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to develop

and implement a policy whereby a certified copy of a person's ID card shall serve as complete substantiating documentation for a person to obtain a duplicate or replacement ID card.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE