

First Extraordinary Session, 2002

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON

A RESOLUTION

To request that the Louisiana Domestic Terrorism Advisory Committee include a provision for the centralized collection and distribution of information regarding grant funding available and received in its three-year plan for enhancing emergency response to terrorism in Louisiana; and to express the sentiments of the House on related matters.

WHEREAS, efforts to enhance homeland security should not be tied to any specific terrorist threat but instead should be motivated by efforts to recognize and mitigate the vulnerability of our state and its infrastructure as a whole, and this will take a coordinated statewide effort; and

WHEREAS, by working together, the government can direct the renewed civic spirit of Louisianians into an effective and lasting level of commitment to security which in turn will enhance citizens' feelings that they are safe in their homeland; and

WHEREAS, all levels of government in Louisiana are working hard to adapt themselves to international threat as we now understand that term and among other efforts the speaker of the House has appointed the special committee on Louisiana Homeland Security and the governor, by executive order, has created the Louisiana Domestic Terrorism Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Domestic Terrorism Advisory Committee is charged, in part, with planning and executing a Louisiana-specific domestic terrorism threat and needs assessment, developing a three-year plan to enhance

overall emergency response capabilities to terrorist events, and directing the administration and distribution of funds received by the state from the United States Department of Justice to accomplish this goal and to provide localities with funding to purchase equipment to support state and local emergency response personnel; and

WHEREAS, the House special committee on Louisiana Homeland Security is particularly interested in maximizing available federal funds and grants available to state and local entities to prevent, prepare, and respond to terrorism; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to further the objectives of both the Louisiana Domestic Terrorism Advisory Committee and the House special committee on Louisiana Homeland Security to provide and maximize available federal funds and grants to state and local entities, the two things that are absolutely critical are cooperation among all of the various branches, agencies, and levels of government and maximum utilization of information and communication technology; and

WHEREAS, coordination of the state legislative and executive efforts has been enhanced by the governor's recent act of naming the chairman of the House special committee on Louisiana Homeland Security to his Louisiana Domestic Terrorism Advisory Committee.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives does hereby commend the governor for his leadership in moving things forward through the appointment of the Louisiana Domestic Terrorism Advisory Committee, the House expresses its appreciation for his inclusion of the chairman of the special committee on Louisiana Homeland Security on that committee and pledges its support to the committee in its efforts to develop the plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives requests that the plan place appropriate emphasis on the need for central collection and distribution of information pertaining to applying for and receipt of federal funds for security purposes, that the plan include a specific proposal with respect to such collection and distribution of information which proposal should include a discussion of the communication and information technology, including websites and databases, that will make this process effective, and that the plan include a suggested budget and source of revenues for implementing this grant information center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives requests that all state agencies and local governments fully cooperate with any state effort to solicit information it determines necessary to achieve safety and security when such information is requested by a state agency charged with the responsibility for coordinating the distribution and collection of information pertaining to applying for and receipt of grants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives recommends that the plan include the formal adoption of the levels-of-risk notification system as it has been implemented by the federal government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Domestic Terrorism Advisory Committee.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES