

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 360

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDMONSTON

A RESOLUTION

To create the Task Force on Child Well-Being, Parental Bonds, and Family Court Fairness to study the administration of justice in family courts, including but not limited to disparities in custody outcomes.

WHEREAS, the family court system and district courts sitting in child custody matters play a critical role in determining custody, visitation, and parental rights, and such determinations directly affect the safety, stability, and long-term well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, the "best interest of the child" standard requires careful, consistent, and evidence-based judicial decision making that preserves meaningful relationships between children and fit parents whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, concerns have been raised regarding disparities in custody outcomes across similar cases within family courts, including questions of consistency and predictability in judicial determinations; and

WHEREAS, questions have been raised regarding due process protections afforded to parents in family court proceedings, including the adequacy of notice and opportunity to be heard prior to the issuance of temporary or ex parte orders affecting custody and visitation; and

WHEREAS, concerns have been expressed regarding the evidentiary standards utilized in custody and visitation determinations, including the reliance on limited or incomplete evidence in certain proceedings; and

WHEREAS, ex parte orders issued on the basis of allegations made by one parent against another parent have significant and immediate effects on parent-child relationships and may remain in place for extended periods pending further proceedings, thereby denying a child the love and affection of a parent without the normal evidentiary process that every other court requires; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest of this state to ensure that family court proceedings are conducted in a manner that is fair, transparent, evidence based, and consistent with constitutional protections and the best interests of children; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of these issues is necessary to evaluate whether statutory or procedural reforms are warranted to improve fairness, consistency, due process, and child well-being outcomes in family courts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish and provide for the Task Force on Child Well-Being, Parental Bonds, and Family Court Fairness to study the administration of justice in family courts, including disparities in custody outcomes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in its study, the task force shall consider each of the following:

- (1) Concerns regarding due process protections for parents.
- (2) The adequacy of evidentiary standards used in custody and visitation determinations, including ex parte orders issued without notice and the impact of such orders on child well-being and parent-child bonds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following members:

- (1) The state representative who represents House District No. 88.
- (2) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (3) One member who is a justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court appointed by the Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court.
- (4) Four members who are practicing attorneys and hold the title of family law specialist from the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization of the Louisiana State Bar Association.

- (5) Two members of the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.
- (6) One member appointed by the Department of Children and Family Services.
- (7) One member appointed by the Louisiana Family Forum.
- (8) The director of the Governor's Office on Women's Policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state representative who represents House District No. 88 shall serve as chairman of the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit the names of designees to the task force to the chairman no later than August 15, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force shall convene for its first meeting no later than September 15, 2026, at the call of the chairman, and the members may elect other officers to assist the chairman as the task force may deem appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting this study, the task force shall seek input, advice, information, and data from any persons, agencies, entities, or stakeholders it deems necessary to fulfill the purposes of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that meetings of the task force are subject to the Open Meetings Law, R.S. 42:11 et seq., and records of the task force are subject to the Public Records Law, R.S. 44:1 et seq.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations, together with specific proposals for legislation, to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana no later than February 15, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one print copy and one electronic copy of any report produced pursuant to this Resolution shall be submitted to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on the date it submits its report or February 15, 2027, whichever occurs first.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Louisiana Family Forum, the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the Department of Children and Family Services.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES