

1 WHEREAS, it is critical that women who are suffering from depression or another
2 maternal mental health disorder be diagnosed and treated; and

3 WHEREAS, addressing maternal mental health concerns has been identified as a
4 critical need by the Louisiana Department of Health, the Louisiana Commission on Perinatal
5 Care and the Prevention of Infant Mortality, the Louisiana Pregnancy-Associated Mortality
6 Review, the Louisiana Pritzker Children's Initiative, and various other commissions,
7 councils, and advisory boards in Louisiana; and

8 WHEREAS, the Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies Advisory Council, which was
9 charged with assessing equity and community engagement in state initiatives addressing
10 maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity, recommended that the state "ensure
11 adequate access to high quality behavioral health services for pregnant and postpartum
12 women, from early identification through screening and linkage to care and treatment for
13 maternal mental health needs and substance abuse disorders"; and

14 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes' Prematurity Collaborative Birth Equity Consensus
15 Statement for Mothers and Babies recognizes that the pursuit of explanations for the racial
16 disparity in birth and maternal outcomes must employ social science disciplines and methods
17 to best examine social and economic disadvantages as well as community and population
18 assets for maternal mental and physical health; and

19 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of this state to establish a task force to identify
20 and assess the functions and activities of existing state efforts and service systems focused
21 on the mental health of women before, during, and after childbirth.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
23 establish the Louisiana Maternal Mental Health Task Force.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall have all of the following
25 functions:

26 (1) To study, review, and identify current individual, provider, and system
27 barriers to screening, diagnosis, and treatment, with a particular focus on
28 exploration of barriers for black and brown women and those who are
29 privately insured or receive care through Medicaid.

1 (2) To study, review, and facilitate current evidence-based research and
2 emerging treatment options that are scalable in public and private health
3 settings, particularly for black and brown women.

4 (3) To identify provider population needs and patient needs in order to improve
5 diagnosis and treatment.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Maternal Mental Health Task
7 Force shall be composed of the following members:

8 (1) A representative from the Louisiana Department of Health.

9 (2) A representative from the office of behavioral health.

10 (3) A representative from the office of public health.

11 (4) A representative from the Department of Children and Family Services.

12 (5) A representative from the Louisiana Mental Health Perinatal Partnership.

13 (6) A representative from the National Birth Equity Collaborative.

14 (7) A representative from the Louisiana Chapter of the March of Dimes.

15 (8) A representative from the Human Services Interagency Council.

16 (9) A representative from the Louisiana Chapter of the National Alliance on
17 Mental Illness.

18 (10) A representative from Saul's Light.

19 (11) A representative from the Birthmark Doulas.

20 (12) A representative from the Louisiana Psychiatric Association.

21 (13) A representative from the Covenant House New Orleans.

22 (14) A representative from the GRACE Program at Woman's Hospital.

23 (15) A representative from the Bridge Center for Hope.

24 (16) A representative from District VII of the American Congress of Obstetricians
25 and Gynecologists.

26 (17) A representative from the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of
27 Pediatrics.

28 (18) A representative from the Louisiana Hospital Association.

29 (19) A representative from the Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a chairperson, licensed in or affiliated with the
2 medical profession, specifically maternal treatment, be elected at the first meeting.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall be
4 responsible for facilitating the members of the Louisiana Maternal Mental Health Task
5 Force.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Maternal Mental Health Task
7 Force shall utilize the information gathered from the data that it collects and submit its
8 findings in the form of a report to the Legislature of Louisiana no later than 30 days prior
9 to the convening of the 2022 Regular Session.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
11 medical director of the Louisiana Maternal Mental Health Perinatal Partnership; to the
12 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health; to the assistant secretary of the office of
13 behavioral health; to the assistant secretary of the office of public health; to the secretary of
14 the Department of Children and Family Services; to the founder and president of the
15 National Birth Equity Collaborative; to the president of the Louisiana Chapter of the March
16 of Dimes; to the coordinator of the Human Services Interagency Council; to the board
17 president of the Louisiana Chapter of National Alliance on Mental Illness; to the executive
18 director of Saul's Light; to the director of the Birthmark Doulas; to the president of the
19 Louisiana Psychiatric Association; to the executive director of Covenant House New
20 Orleans; to the director of the GRACE Program at Woman's Hospital; to the executive
21 director of the Bridge Center for Hope; to the District VII director of the American Congress
22 of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; to the president of the Louisiana Chapter of the
23 American Academy of Pediatrics; to the president of the Louisiana Hospital Association; and
24 to the president and chief executive officer of the Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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2021 Regular Session

Duplessis

Establishes the Louisiana Maternal Mental Health Task Force and provides for its composition, duties, and functions.