HLS 21RS-2633 ORIGINAL

2021 Regular Session

1

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS

MENTAL HEALTH: Establishes the Louisiana Maternal Mental Health Task Force for the purposes of advancing education and treatment and improving services relating to maternal mental heath

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To establish a task force dedicated to the education, treatment, and overall improvement or		
3	maternal mental healthcare within the state.		
4	WHEREAS, women in their childbearing years account for the largest group o		
5	Americans with depression; and		
6	WHEREAS, the mental health of women before, during, and after childbirth is a		
7	issue of great concern to those affected, their families, and their physicians; and		
8	WHEREAS, the challenges associated with maternal mental health constitute		
9	leading cause of maternal mortality; and		
10	WHEREAS, according to the Louisiana Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review		
11	2017 Report that was released in September 2020, sixty-seven percent of all mental heal		
12	conditions among women were pregnancy-associated; and		
13	WHEREAS, the review committee deemed one hundred percent of the pregnancy		
14	associated deaths it assessed to be preventable; and		
15	WHEREAS, maternal depression and other mood disorders are serious and		
16	debilitating, but are treatable conditions; and		
17	WHEREAS, children born to mothers with untreated depression are more likely to		
18	have developmental problems and higher utilization of medical and mental healthcare over		
19	their lifetimes; and		

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		
4	critical need by the Louisiana Department of Health, the Louisiana Commission on Perinat		
5	Care and the Prevention of Infant Mortality, the Louisiana Pregnancy-Associated Mortali		
6	Review, the Louisiana Pritzker Children's Initiative, and various other commission		
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.
0	(3)	A representative from the office of public health.
1	(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.
4	(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.
9	(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.
00	(10)	A range antative from the Institute of Woman and Ethnia 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)]

HCR 105 Original

2021 Regular Session

Duplessis

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