

2021 Regular Session

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 health

1    A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2        To establish a task force dedicated to the education, treatment, and overall improvement of  
3            maternal mental healthcare within the state.

4            WHEREAS, women in their childbearing years account for the largest group of  
5        Americans with depression; and

6            WHEREAS, the mental health of women before, during, and after childbirth is an  
7        issue of great concern to those affected, their families, and their physicians; and

8            WHEREAS, the challenges associated with maternal mental health constitute a  
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 health  
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 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.

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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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HCR 105 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

Duplessis

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