

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 84

BY REPRESENTATIVE JORDAN

HEALTH: Creates the Task Force on African American Suicide Rates

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create a task force to study suicide rates among African Americans in Louisiana and
3 report its findings to the legislature no later than February 1, 2024.

4 WHEREAS, according to the Suicide Prevention Resource Center of the United
5 States Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health
6 Services Administration, African American adults were at the highest risk for past-year
7 suicide attempts in 2019; and

8 WHEREAS, the Suicide Prevention Resource Center of the United States has
9 reported a suicide rate peak during the adolescence and young adult life of African American
10 populations from the year 2010 to 2019; and

11 WHEREAS, among those suicide deaths in the African American population, the
12 suicide death rate for men has reached more than four times the rate of women; and

13 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has reported six and four-tenths African American
14 deaths from suicide to every ten thousand person population in comparison to the seven and
15 three-tenths rate reported for the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, WAFB, a Baton Rouge news station, reported in a 2021 broadcast that
17 African American boys between the ages of five and twelve were more likely to die by
18 suicide than any other age group; and

19 WHEREAS, WAFB also reported that suicides among African American children
20 under eighteen years of age have increased by seventy-one percent over the past decade; and

1 WHEREAS, Louisiana's Suicide Prevention Plan states that although suicide death
2 rates are significantly lower for African Americans in Louisiana in comparison to other
3 states, this group has a high rate of suicide attempts and serious thoughts of suicide; and

4 WHEREAS, African Americans in Louisiana are considered a high-risk population
5 for many negative health outcomes due to high risk factors such as homelessness, exposure
6 to violence, psychological distress, family dysfunction, and exposure to racial inequality.

7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
8 create and provide for the Task Force on African American Suicide Rates to study death by
9 suicide statistics for African Americans in this state and to propose any recommendations
10 regarding suicide prevention.

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

13 (1) The chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary, who shall serve as the
14 chairman of the task force, or his designee.

15 (2) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary B or his designee.

16 (3) The chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare or his designee.

17 (4) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare or his designee.

18 (5) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.

19 (6) The president of the Louisiana Psychiatric Medical Association or his designee.

20 (7) The president of the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists or his
21 designee.

22 (8) The chairman of the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners or his
23 designee.

24 (9) The president of the New Orleans Association of Black Social Workers or his
25 designee.

26 (10) The president of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social
27 Workers or his designee.

28 (11) The executive director of Baton Rouge Crisis Intervention Center or his
29 designee.

1 (12) The president of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association for the
2 Advancement of Colored People or his designee.

3 (13) The president of the YWCA Greater Baton Rouge area or his designee.

4 (14) The president of 100 Black Men of Baton Rouge or his designee.

5 (15) The president of the Urban League of Louisiana or his designee.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit the name
7 of its designee to the task force to the Louisiana Department of Health no later than July 15,
8 2023.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall
10 provide staff support as needed by the task force.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than August 1, 2023, the chairman of
12 the task force shall convene the first meeting of the task force. At the first meeting, the
13 members may elect a vice chairman and other officers as the task force deems appropriate.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a
15 quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the
16 affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

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

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force on African American Suicide
21 Rates shall submit its findings in the form of a written report to the legislature and the David
22 R. Poynter Legislative Research Library no later than February 1, 2024.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on the date of the
24 submission of its findings from the study called for in this Resolution in the form of a report
25 to the legislature or February 1, 2024, whichever occurs first.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
27 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the president of the Louisiana Psychiatric
28 Medical Association, the president of the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists, the
29 chairman of the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, the president of the New
30 Orleans Association of Black Social Workers, the president of the Louisiana Chapter of the

1 National Association of Social Workers, the executive director of Baton Rouge Crisis
2 Intervention Center, the president of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association for
3 the Advancement of Colored People, the president of the YWCA Greater Baton Rouge area,
4 the president of 100 Black Men of Baton Rouge, and the president of the Urban League of
5 Louisiana.

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 84 Engrossed

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Jordan

Creates a task force to study the African American suicide rates and potential means to promote suicide awareness and prevention and to report its findings to the legislature no later than Feb. 1, 2024.