

2023 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 134

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

CHILDREN. Requests the Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force to study the feasibility of creating a program to provide education on child passenger safety and coordinate the distribution of child safety seats to families in need.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force, in consultation with the  
3 Louisiana Department of Health, Department of Children and Family Services,  
4 Department of Transportation and Development, and Department of Public Safety  
5 and Corrections, to study the feasibility of creating a program to provide education  
6 on child passenger safety and coordinate the distribution of child safety seats to  
7 families in need.

8 WHEREAS, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children in  
9 Louisiana, but many of these deaths can be prevented; and

10 WHEREAS, always buckling children in age- and size-appropriate car seats, booster  
11 seats, and seat belts reduces serious injuries and death by up to eighty percent; and

12 WHEREAS, in 2020, over six hundred child passengers ages twelve and younger  
13 were killed in motor vehicle crashes in the United States, and more than sixty-three thousand  
14 were injured; and

15 WHEREAS, of the children who were killed in a crash, thirty-eight percent were not  
16 buckled up; and

17 WHEREAS, parents and caregivers can make a lifesaving difference by ensuring that  
18 their children are properly buckled on every trip; and

1           WHEREAS, child safety seat use reduces the risk for injury in a crash by seventy-one  
2 to eighty-two percent for children, when compared with seat belt use alone; and

3           WHEREAS, car seat and booster seat distribution plus education programs can also  
4 increase restraint use; and

5           WHEREAS, these programs help parents and caregivers get new, unused car seats  
6 or booster seats and learn how to properly install and use them, and often include hands-on  
7 demonstrations which can help increase proper installation and use; and

8           WHEREAS, other states such as Texas operate a successful child safety seat  
9 distribution and education program that can serve as a model for developing a program in  
10 Louisiana; and

11           WHEREAS, the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission's Louisiana Passenger  
12 Safety Task Force is dedicated to raising awareness about all aspects of occupant protection,  
13 especially child passenger safety.

14           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
15 does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force, in consultation  
16 with the Louisiana Department of Health, Department of Children and Family Services,  
17 Department of Transportation and Development, and Department of Public Safety and  
18 Corrections, to study the feasibility of creating a program to provide education on child  
19 passenger safety and coordinate the distribution of child safety seats to families in need.

20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in conducting the study requested by this  
21 Resolution, the task force shall research all of the following:

22           (1) Best practices followed by programs established in other states.

23           (2) State, federal, charitable, or other private resources available to provide funding  
24 for a program in Louisiana.

25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in conducting the study requested by this  
26 Resolution, the Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force, in consultation with the Louisiana  
27 Department of Health, Department of Children and Family Services, Department of  
28 Transportation and Development, and Department of Public Safety and Corrections, shall  
29 develop a plan for a Louisiana child safety seat distribution and education program.

30           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, in developing the plan required

1 by this Resolution, shall specifically determine the desirability and feasibility of  
2 implementing a policy similar to the current child safety seat distribution and education  
3 program administered by the Texas State Department of Health Services.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in carrying out the purposes of this Resolution,  
5 the task force shall engage and solicit input, recommendations, and advice from all interested  
6 parties and stakeholders.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force shall  
8 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation if  
9 necessary and a written copy of the plan for a Louisiana child safety seat distribution and  
10 education program, no later than February 1, 2024. The report shall include objective,  
11 fiscally feasible recommendations to the legislature for the implementation of policies that  
12 could be adopted by the state.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be submitted to the  
14 Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, Louisiana Department of Health, Department of  
15 Children and Family Services, Department of Transportation and Development, and  
16 Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Brandi Cannon.

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SR 134 Original

DIGEST  
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