

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 115

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

CHILDREN: Creates a task force to support the cross-agency work associated with the recreation of Early Childhood Supports and Services program in this state

- 1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
- 2 To create a task force to support the cross-agency work associated with the creation of the
- 3 Early Childhood Supports and Services program in Louisiana and to hold the
- 4 Louisiana Department of Health accountable for the responsible and timely
- 5 development and delivery of the program.
- 6 WHEREAS, the Early Childhood Supports and Services (ECSS) program provides
- 7 a coordinated system of screening, evaluation, referral services, and treatment for children,
- 8 ranging from ages zero to five and their families; and
- 9 WHEREAS, the comprehensive services provided by ECSS fosters an environment
- 10 for learning, growth, and relationship building; and
- 11 WHEREAS, the program includes but is not limited to local, integrated, and
- 12 comprehensive systems of care for young children; and
- 13 WHEREAS, today, many families in Louisiana have been significantly impacted by
- 14 the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in rural and low-income communities facing mental
- 15 health service barriers for children; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Louisiana recently allocated available funds via the American Rescue
- 17 Plan Act of 2021 and hopes to bring back a successful program that supports families with
- 18 young children with mental health and wrap-around services; and
- 19 WHEREAS, the long-term success and sustainability of such a program requires a
- 20 multidisciplinary approach and cross-collaboration of state agencies; and

1 WHEREAS, the implementation of this program can significantly impact families
2 in need of services while diverting such families from costly programs like child welfare
3 interventions, the juvenile justice system, and lessening their dependence on social benefit
4 programs; and

5 WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Louisiana Legislature to propose rules and
6 regulations to utilize state funds for programs that pour into local communities and ensure
7 the safety of Louisiana citizens.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
9 create a task force to support the cross-agency work associated with the creation of the Early
10 Childhood Supports and Services program in Louisiana and to hold the Louisiana
11 Department of Health accountable for the responsible and timely development and delivery
12 of the program.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the council shall initially consist of the
14 following members:

15 (1) The professor of Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Public Health, Head of the Division
16 of Pediatric Mental Health, from the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center
17 School of Medicine or his designee.

18 (2) The director of the Tulane Medical School Institute of Infant and Early
19 Childhood Mental Health or his designee.

20 (3) The assistant secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, office of
21 behavioral health, or his designee.

22 (4) The assistant program manager for Early Steps, Louisiana Department of Health,
23 office of citizens with developmental disabilities, or his designee.

24 (5) The assistant secretary of Family Support, Department of Children and Family
25 Services, or his designee.

26 (6) The deputy commissioner of the division of administration or his designee.

27 (7) The executive director of TrainingGrounds, Inc. or his designee.

28 (8) The executive director of the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families
29 or his designee.

1 (9) The executive director of the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children or his
2 designee.

3 (10) A representative from the Moms of Black Boys United for Social Change.

4 (11) A representative from the Early Childhood Systems, office of the governor, or
5 his designee.

6 (12) The president of the Louisiana Senate or his designee.

7 (13) The speaker of the Louisiana House of Representative or his designee.

8 (14) An appointee from the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board.

9 (15) A representative of the state Department of Education with expertise on early
10 childhood education appointed by the state superintendent of education.

11 (16) A representative of the state Department of Education with expertise on Head
12 Start or Early Head Start programs appointed by the state superintendent of education.

13 (17) A representative of the division of child welfare, Department of Children and
14 Family Services, appointed by the secretary of the Department of Children and Family
15 Services.

16 (18) A representative of the office of family support, Department of Children and
17 Family Services, appointed by the secretary of the Department of Children and Family
18 Services.

19 (19) A representative of the office of public health, Louisiana Department of Health,
20 with expertise in nurse-family partnerships, appointed by the secretary of the Louisiana
21 Department of Health.

22 (20) A representative with expertise in community wellness programs appointed by
23 the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

24 (21) A representative of the bureau of health services financing, Louisiana
25 Department of Health, with expertise in medicaid appointed by the secretary of the Louisiana
26 Department of Health.

27 (22) A representative of the office of behavioral health, Louisiana Department of
28 Health, with expertise in local governing entities and human services districts or authorities
29 appointed by the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

1 (23) A representative of the Louisiana Housing Corporation appointed by the
2 executive director of the Louisiana Housing Corporation.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall
4 provide staff to support the task force required by this Resolution and designate a chair at
5 its first meeting.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall report its progress to the
7 Louisiana Legislature.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before February 1, 2024, the task force
9 shall submit to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare and the David R.
10 Poynter Legislative Research Library a written report of its findings and recommendations.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
12 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the professor of Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and
13 Public Health, Head of the Division of Pediatric Mental Health, from the Louisiana State
14 University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine, the executive director of the Tulane
15 Medical School Institute for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, the assistant
16 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, office of behavioral health, the assistant
17 program manager for Early Steps, Louisiana Department of Health, office of citizens with
18 developmental disabilities, the assistant secretary of Family Support, Department of
19 Children and Family Services, the deputy commissioner of the division of administration,
20 the executive director of TrainingGrounds, Inc., the executive director of the Louisiana
21 Partnership for Children and Families, the executive director of the Louisiana Policy
22 Institute for Children, Moms of Black Boys United for Social Change, Early Childhood
23 Systems, office of the governor, the state superintendent of education, the secretary of the
24 Department of Children and Family Services, the executive director of the Louisiana
25 Housing Corporation, and the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board.

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 115 Reengrossed

2023 Regular Session

McFarland

Creates a task force to support the cross-agency work associated with the creation of the Early Childhood Supports and Services program in La. and to hold the La. Dept. of Health accountable for the responsible and timely development and delivery of the program.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the engrossed resolution:

1. Add nine members to the task force.
2. Make technical changes.