

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 37

HIGHER EDUCATION: Establishes the Caleb Wilson Hazing Prevention Task Force

2 To create the Caleb Wilson Hazing Prevention Task Force to evaluate the effectiveness of
3 state anti-hazing law and postsecondary education hazing prevention policies and
4 practices.

5 WHEREAS, research shows that, at the postsecondary level, student engagement in
6 campus organizations can strengthen student outcomes, improve retention, and aid in
7 completion; and

8 WHEREAS, this benefit is only realized if student organizations' intake and
9 participation processes are safe and enriching for the students; and

10 WHEREAS, hazing of any kind is illegal and strictly prohibited, with laws in place
11 that provide penalties, which include jail time and fines for hazing deaths or serious bodily
12 injuries; and

13 WHEREAS, even with such strong laws, Louisiana continues to experience hazing
14 incidents that result in the death and serious bodily injury of students; and

15 WHEREAS, although illegal, hazing incidents can occur as part of the intake process
16 of various student organizations, including fraternities, sororities, bands, and athletic teams;
17 and

1 WHEREAS, the landmark 2008 National Study of Student Hazing revealed the
2 following alarming facts:

- 3 (1) Forty-seven percent of students come to college having experienced hazing;
- 4 (2) Fifty-five percent of college students involved in clubs, teams, and
5 organizations experience hazing;
- 6 (3) Seventy-four percent of students on a varsity athletic team and seventy-three
7 percent of social fraternity and sorority members reported experiencing
8 hazing; and

9 WHEREAS, Louisiana's public postsecondary education systems have self-reported
10 thirty-seven hazing incidents since the passage of the Max Gruver Act in 2018; and

11 WHEREAS, effective education and hazing prevention is of the utmost importance
12 in Louisiana; and

13 WHEREAS, identifying all challenges, appropriate solutions, and implementation
14 plans across institutions in the state will require significant engagement from institution and
15 system leaders and other stakeholders who are committed to improving campus safety.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
17 create the Caleb Wilson Hazing Prevention Task Force to evaluate the effectiveness of state
18 anti-hazing law and postsecondary education hazing prevention policies and practices.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the
20 following twenty-six members:

21 (1) One member appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives who is
22 a member of the House of Representatives or a Louisiana resident, who shall serve as
23 chairman of the task force.

24 (2) Two members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

25 (3) The chairman of the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice
26 or her designee.

27 (4) The chairman of the House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure or his
28 designee.

29 (5) The chairman of the House Committee on Education or her designee.

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

1 (7) Four members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate, one of
2 whom shall serve as vice chairman of the task force, at the president's discretion.

3 (8) The attorney general or her designee.

4 (9) The superintendent of the Louisiana State Police or his designee.

5 (10) The commissioner of higher education or her designee.

6 (11) Four students, one enrolled at each public postsecondary education system in
7 Louisiana, nominated by each system president and appointed by the commissioner of higher
8 education.

9 (12) Four staff or faculty members, one employed at each public postsecondary
10 education system in Louisiana, who are engaged in student affairs, including overseeing
11 student code of conduct or student discipline, appointed by each system president.

12 (13) Four campus presidents or chancellors, or individuals who serve as system or
13 campus counsel, appointed by the president of each public postsecondary education system
14 in Louisiana.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall deliberate on all issues
16 relevant to the prevention of hazing at the postsecondary level, including but not limited to
17 the following:

18 (1) An evaluation of current state and federal laws, both criminal and civil, relative
19 to hazing at colleges and universities.

20 (2) An evaluation of current postsecondary education hazing prevention policies.

21 (3) An assessment of the adequacy of the criminal, civil, and academic consequences
22 for violating the laws and policies provided for in (1) and (2) above.

23 (4) A review of current best practices from across the country suitable for adoption
24 in Louisiana, such as the development of statewide hazing prevention training.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to inform the work of the task force, the task
26 force may engage with student focus groups to gather information and test the potential
27 impact of possible recommendations.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall provide staff support
29 to the task force, to be provided from existing personnel.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that non-legislative members of the task force shall
2 receive no compensation for their services and shall serve at no expense to the state.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that student members of the task force may receive
4 reimbursement for travel as authorized and paid for by their respective institution's president
5 or chancellor.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all non-legislative and non-student members
7 may seek reimbursement for travel, contingent upon authorization by the head of their
8 respective employer.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of
10 findings and recommendations to the House and Senate committees on education, the House
11 Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice, and the House Committee on Civil
12 Law and Procedure not later than January 31, 2026.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
14 commissioner of higher education.

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 37 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Hughes

Creates the Hazing Prevention Task Force to evaluate the effectiveness of state anti-hazing law and postsecondary education hazing prevention policies and practices and to report its findings and recommendations to the House and Senate committees on education, the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice, and the House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure not later than Jan. 31, 2026.