

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 37

BY REPRESENTATIVES HUGHES, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BILLINGS, BOYD, BOYER, BRASS, CARRIER, WILFORD CARTER, CARVER, CHASSION, DEVILLIER, EDMONSTON, FISHER, FREIBERG, ILLG, JACKSON, TRAVIS JOHNSON, JORDAN, KNOX, LAFLEUR, TERRY LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MARCELLE, MILLER, MOORE, PHELPS, SPELL, TAYLOR, THOMPSON, VENTRELLA, VILLIO, WALTERS, WILDER, WILLARD, AND YOUNG AND SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (1) Forty-seven percent of students come to college having experienced hazing;

- (2) Fifty-five percent of college students involved in clubs, teams, and organizations experience hazing;
- (3) Seventy-four percent of students on a varsity athletic team and seventy-three percent of social fraternity and sorority members reported experiencing hazing; and

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

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

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

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

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

- (1) One member appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives who is a member of the House of Representatives or a Louisiana resident, who shall serve as chairman of the task force.
- (2) Two members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (3) The chairman of the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice or her designee.
- (4) The chairman of the House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure or his designee.
- (5) The chairman of the House Committee on Education or her designee.
- (6) The chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare or his designee.
- (7) Four members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate, one of whom shall serve as vice chairman of the task force, at the president's discretion.
- (8) The attorney general or her designee.
- (9) The superintendent of the Louisiana State Police or his designee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of 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 January 31, 2026.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE