

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 90

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

**SEX EDUCATION:** Creates a task force to study and evaluate the effectiveness of sexual health education programs used throughout the state and other states

1   A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2    To create a task force to study and evaluate the effectiveness of sexual health education

3            programs used throughout the state and other states and to submit a written report of

4            findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the

5            Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Education, and

6            the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning

7            of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

8            WHEREAS, as stated in the Constitution of Louisiana, it is the goal of the public

9            education system to provide learning environments and experiences at all stages of human

10           development that are humane, just, and designed to promote excellence in order that every

11           individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential; and

12            WHEREAS, R.S. 17:281 authorizes each public elementary or secondary school in

13           the state to offer age-appropriate instruction in subject matter designated as "sex education";

14           and

15            WHEREAS, Louisiana's rates of teen-birth and sexually transmitted disease such as

16           chlamydia, syphilis, gonorrhea, and HIV are among the highest in the nation; and

17            WHEREAS, education is the key to reducing the number of cases of sexually

18           transmitted disease and the number of teen pregnancies and to building stronger families and

19           a healthier future for Louisiana; and

20            WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every

21           student an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is imperative that a balanced

1 group of experts thoroughly study and evaluate sexual health education programs so that  
2 determinations can be made as to how the state can best provide experiences and  
3 opportunities to students that help them succeed in all aspects of life.

4       THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby creates  
5 a task force to study and evaluate the effectiveness of sexual health education programs used  
6 throughout the state and other states.

7       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the  
8 following members:

9       (1) A representative of the Department of Children and Family Services, designated  
10 by the secretary of the department.

11       (2) A representative of the office of public health of the Department of Health and  
12 Hospitals, designated by the secretary of the department.

13       (3) A representative of the state Department of Education, designated by the state  
14 superintendent of education.

15       (4) One local school superintendent, designated by the president of the Louisiana  
16 Association of School Superintendents.

17       (5) One public high school principal, designated by the president of the Louisiana  
18 Association of Principals.

19       (6) A representative of the Children's Defense Fund, designated by the director of  
20 the Louisiana office of the Children's Defense Fund.

21       (7) The executive director of the Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies or his  
22 designee.

23       (8) The executive director of Louisiana Women's Policy and Research Commission  
24 or his designee.

25       (9) The executive director of the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families  
26 or his designee.

27       (10) The executive director of the Louisiana Assembly on School-Based Health Care  
28 or his designee.

29       (11) The chief executive officer of the Louisiana Public Health Institute or his  
30 designee.

1 (12) The senior community coordinator of Connect to Protect or his designee.

2 (13) The executive director of the Louisiana chapter of the American Academy of  
3 Pediatrics or his designee.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of  
5 findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the House Committee on Health and  
6 Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Education,  
7 and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of  
8 the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this report shall focus on the evaluation of the  
10 effectiveness of sexual health and abstinence-only education programs used throughout the  
11 state and other states, particularly with respect to how these programs address high risk  
12 behaviors that result in teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, and shall include  
13 information on the content of curricula and programs, the extent of use and participation by  
14 city, parish, and other local public school systems, the identification of areas of potential  
15 improvement, including how to address the state's high rates of teen pregnancy and sexually  
16 transmitted disease more effectively, and any recommendations for legislation related to  
17 sexual health education.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Department of Health and  
19 Hospitals or his designee shall be responsible for designating staff to assist the task force in  
20 performing its duties and, by August 1, 2013, convening the task force for its first meeting,  
21 at which the task force shall adopt rules of procedure, a work schedule, and any additional  
22 measures that it deems necessary for the timely performance of its duties.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force shall serve without  
24 compensation.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
26 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state  
27 superintendent of education, the executive director of the Office of Louisiana Youth for  
28 Excellence (LYFE), and the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals who shall  
29 be responsible for transmitting a copy to each of the groups, organizations, and offices from  
30 which the members of the task force are being selected or designated.

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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)]

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Smith

HCR No. 90

Creates a task force to study and evaluate the effectiveness of sexual health education programs used throughout the state and other states.

Provides that the task force shall have 13 members who shall serve without compensation:

- (1) A representative of the Dept. of Children and Family Services, designated by the secretary of the department.
- (2) A representative of the office of public health of the Dept. of Health and Hospitals, designated by the secretary of the department.
- (3) A representative of the state Dept. of Education, designated by the state superintendent of education.
- (4) One local school superintendent, designated by the president of the La. Assoc. of School Superintendents.
- (5) One public high school principal, designated by the president of the La. Assoc. of Principals.
- (6) A representative of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), designated by the director of the La. office of CDF.
- (7) The executive director of the Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies or his designee.
- (8) The executive director of La. Women's Policy and Research Commission or his designee.
- (9) The executive director of the La. Partnership for Children and Families or his designee.
- (10) The executive director of the La. Assembly on School-Based Health Care or his designee.
- (11) The chief executive officer of the La. Public Health Institute or his designee.
- (12) The senior community coordinator of Connect to Protect or his designee.
- (13) The executive director of the La. chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics or his designee.

Provides that at least 60 days before the 2014 R.S., the task force shall submit to the House and Senate health and welfare committees and House and Senate education committees a written report of findings, conclusions, and recommendations and that the report shall focus on the evaluation of the effectiveness of sexual health and abstinence-only education programs used throughout the state and other states, particularly with respect to how these programs address high risk behaviors that result in teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, and shall include information on the content of curricula and programs, the extent of use and participation by public school systems, the identification of areas of potential improvement, including how to address the state's high rate of teen pregnancy and sexually

transmitted diseases more effectively, and any recommendations for legislation related to sexual health education.

Provides that the secretary of the Dept. of Health and Hospitals or his designee shall designate staff to assist the task force and shall convene the first meeting by Aug. 1, 2013.