

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 193

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

STUDENTS: Creates a task force to study and evaluate the effectiveness of drug abuse prevention and education programs in public schools

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create a task force to study and evaluate the effectiveness of drug abuse prevention and
3 education programs in public schools and to submit a written report of findings and
4 recommendations to the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on
5 Education, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, and the Senate Committee
6 on Health and Welfare not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2015
7 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, in R.S. 17:402, the legislature finds that the use and abuse of alcohol,
13 drugs, and other substances among the children of school age in this state is a problem of
14 serious concern and destructive societal impact and that the incidence of alcohol, drug, and
15 substance abuse among the young is high; and

16 WHEREAS, the legislature further finds in R.S. 17:402 that substance abuse leads
17 to serious consequences and impairs one's ability to perform normally and productively in
18 his educational and social environment and that dependence on alcohol, drugs, or other
19 substances is an illness that can be prevented, identified, and treated; and

20 WHEREAS, finally, in R.S. 17:402, the legislature finds that substantial alleviation
21 of these problems may result from the development and implementation of comprehensive

1 education programs and counseling in the public school systems of this state, combined with
2 an enhanced law enforcement effort in and around schools; and

3 WHEREAS, there is some concern among parents and citizens that the education of
4 Louisiana's young people relative to drug abuse is not as effective as it could be and should
5 be improved in order to ensure the lifelong health of the state's citizens; and

6 WHEREAS, drug abuse in Louisiana has a devastating impact on families and
7 communities; and

8 WHEREAS, drug use among students has a highly detrimental impact on their
9 educational prospects and is a major factor contributing to the incidence of school dropouts;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, education is the key to curbing drug abuse by Louisiana's children and
12 to building stronger families and a healthier future for Louisiana; and

13 WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every
14 student an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is imperative that a thorough
15 study and evaluation be conducted on drug abuse prevention and education programs in
16 public schools so that determinations can be made as to how the state can best provide
17 experiences and opportunities to students that help them succeed in all aspects of life.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby creates
19 a task force to study and evaluate the effectiveness of drug abuse prevention and education
20 programs in public schools throughout the state.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the
22 following members:

23 (1) A representative of the state Department of Education, designated by the state
24 superintendent of education.

25 (2) A representative of the Department of Health and Hospitals, designated by
26 the secretary of the department.

27 (3) A representative of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, youth
28 services, office of juvenile justice, designated by the secretary of the department.

29 (4) The president of the Louisiana DARE Officers Association or his designee.

1 (5) One local school superintendent, designated by the president of the Louisiana
2 Association of School Superintendents.

3 (6) One public high school principal, designated by the president of the Louisiana
4 Association of Principals.

5 (7) A representative of the Louisiana Association of School Executives,
6 designated by the executive director of the association.

7 (8) A representative of the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, designated by the
8 president of the federation.

9 (9) A representative of the Louisiana Association of Educators, designated by the
10 president of the association.

11 (10) A representative of the Association of Professional Educators of Louisiana,
12 designated by the executive director of the association.

13 (11) The president of the Louisiana School Counselor Association or his designee.

14 (12) A representative of the Louisiana Assembly on School-Based Health Centers,
15 designated by the executive director of the assembly.

16 (13) A representative of the Schools First Project of the Juvenile Justice Project
17 of Louisiana, designated by the director of the Schools First Project.

18 (14) The executive director of the Louisiana chapter of the National Association
19 of Social Workers or his designee.

20 (15) A representative of the office of the governor, designated by the governor.

21 (16) The executive director of the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families
22 or his designee.

23 (17) The chief executive officer of the Louisiana Public Health Institute or his
24 designee.

25 (18) The executive director of the Louisiana chapter of the American Academy
26 of Pediatrics or his designee.

27 (19) A representative of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, designated
28 by the executive director of the association.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of
30 findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee

1 on Education, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, and the Senate Committee on
2 Health and Welfare not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2015 Regular
3 Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this report shall include but need not be limited
5 to the identification of potential areas of improvement with respect to drug abuse prevention
6 and education programs in public schools and any recommendations for related legislation.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the executive director of the Governor's Office
8 of Safe and Drug Free Communities or his designee shall be responsible for designating staff
9 to assist the task force in performing its duties and, by August 1, 2014, convening the task
10 force for its first meeting, at which the task force shall elect officers and adopt rules of
11 procedure, a work schedule, and any additional measures that it deems necessary for the
12 timely performance of its duties.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force shall serve without
14 compensation.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the
16 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the secretary of the
17 Department of Health and Hospitals, the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and
18 Corrections, and to the executive director of the Governor's Office of Safe and Drug Free
19 Communities, who shall be responsible for transmitting a copy to each of the groups,
20 organizations, and offices from which the members of the task force are being selected or
21 designated.

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)]

Hodges

HCR No. 193

Creates a task force to study and evaluate the effectiveness of drug abuse prevention and education programs in public schools. Provides that the task force shall have 19 members who shall serve without compensation. Provides that the task force report study findings and recommendations to the House and Senate education committees and House and Senate health and welfare committees prior to the 2015 R.S. and that the report shall include the identification of potential areas of improvement with respect to drug abuse education and any recommendations for related legislation. Provides that the executive director of the Governor's Office of Safe and Drug Free Communities or his designee shall designate staff to assist the task force and shall convene the first meeting by Aug. 1, 2014.