

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

1           WHEREAS, finally, in R.S. 17:402, the legislature finds that substantial alleviation  
2 of these problems may result from the development and implementation of comprehensive  
3 education programs and counseling in the public school systems of this state, combined with  
4 an enhanced law enforcement effort in and around schools; and

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

8           WHEREAS, drug abuse in Louisiana has a devastating impact on families and  
9 communities; and

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

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

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

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

23          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the  
24 following members:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (20) The presiding officer of Louisiana Teen Challenge or his designee.

1           (21) A church pastor selected by the presiding officer of Louisiana Teen  
2 Challenge.

3           (22) A representative of the Louisiana School Psychological Association,  
4 designated by the president of the association.

5           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of  
6 findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee  
7 on Education, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, and the Senate Committee on  
8 Health and Welfare not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2015 Regular  
9 Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

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

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

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force shall serve without  
20 compensation.

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
22 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the secretary of the  
23 Department of Health and Hospitals, the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and  
24 Corrections, and to the executive director of the Governor's Office of Safe and Drug Free  
25 Communities, who shall be responsible for transmitting a copy to each of the groups,  
26 organizations, and offices from which the members of the task force are being selected or  
27 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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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 22 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.

**Summary of Amendments Adopted by House**

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original resolution.

1. Adds to task force membership: (a) the presiding officer of La. Teen Challenge or his designee; (b) a church pastor selected by the presiding officer of La. Teen Challenge; and (c) a representative of the La. School Psychological Assoc., designated by the president of the association.