

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 193

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create a task force to study and evaluate the effectiveness of drug abuse prevention and education programs in public schools and to submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Education, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, as stated in the Constitution of Louisiana, it is the goal of the public education system to provide learning environments and experiences at all stages of human development that are humane, just, and designed to promote excellence in order that every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential; and

WHEREAS, in R.S. 17:402, the legislature finds that the use and abuse of alcohol, drugs, and other substances among the children of school age in this state is a problem of serious concern and destructive societal impact and that the incidence of alcohol, drug, and substance abuse among the young is high; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE