

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRASS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create a task force to study issues relative to a lack of racial minority and female candidates for athletic director and head coach positions at public postsecondary education institutions and to submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, the collegiate sports system needs to confront its hiring disparities in order to diversify its workforce; and

WHEREAS, according to Arne Duncan, the former U.S. secretary of education, "College sport has to adopt a rule that will mandate diverse pools of candidates for all major positions"; and

WHEREAS, athletic programs at colleges and universities in Louisiana would benefit from the employment of a more diverse workforce, including African American, American Indian, Asian, Latino, and female staff members; and

WHEREAS, members of the Legislature of Louisiana believe that structured dialogue and engagement will illuminate the path forward in addressing these challenges.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Louisiana Minority Sports Initiative Task Force to research strategies to secure a stronger, more diverse collegiate athletic workforce.

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

- (1) The speaker of the House of Representatives or his designee.
- (2) The president of the Senate or his designee.

- (3) The Louisiana State University system president.
- (4) The Louisiana State University athletics director.
- (5) The Louisiana community and technical college system president.
- (6) The Southern University system president.
- (7) The Southern University director of athletics.
- (8) The University of Louisiana system president.
- (9) The Grambling State University director of athletics.
- (10) The Louisiana Tech University director of athletics.
- (11) The Tulane University director of athletics.
- (12) The McNeese State University director of athletics.
- (13) The director of the Bureau of Minority Health Access within the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Community Partnerships and Health Equity.
- (14) The New Orleans Pelicans and New Orleans Saints director of unification/youth programs.
- (15) The New Orleans Pelicans and New Orleans Saints human resources manager.
- (16) The executive director of the Doug Williams Center for the Study of Race and Politics in Sports.
- (17) Three members from the private sector, to be chosen by the task force chairman after the first meeting of the task force.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, at the first meeting of the task force, the members shall elect a chairman and other officers as they may deem appropriate from among members of the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 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 the task force shall submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this report shall include but not be limited to any suggested legislation to help ensure a more diverse pool of candidates for collegiate athletic positions and shall include findings and recommendations from the following tasks charged to the task force:

(1) Exploring answers to the following questions:

(a) What is the number-one priority for a person in charge of hiring when such a person makes a hiring decision?

(b) How important is the applicant's knowledge in a particular sport?

(c) Is there an expectation of an advanced degree?

(2) Creating best practices for minority applicants to have exposure to decision makers who generally hire individuals "they know" or are "comfortable with".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana acknowledges the significant work The Doug Williams Center for the Study of Race and Politics in Sports has done to help build an ever-growing network of solutions for diversity and inclusion in collegiate and professional sports and urges the staff of the center to pursue the following:

(1) Developing programs to teach candidates interview techniques.

(2) Creating clinics for coaches on the following:

(a) Public speaking fundamentals.

(b) Recruiting techniques and strategies.

(c) Contract negotiations.

(d) Salary cap management.

(e) Organizational leadership and motivation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consider these pursuits of The Doug Williams Center in preparing the report required by this Resolution.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE