HLS 23RS-2675 ENGROSSED

2023 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 115

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

CHILDREN: Creates a task force to support the cross-agency work associated with the recreation of Early Childhood Supports and Services program in this state

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To create a task force to support the cross-agency work associated with the creation of the
3	Early Childhood Supports and Services program in Louisiana and to hold the
4	Louisiana Department of Health accountable for the responsible and timely
5	development and delivery of the program.
6	WHEREAS, the Early Childhood Supports and Services (ECSS) program provides
7	a coordinated system of screening, evaluation, referral services, and treatment for children,
8	ranging from ages zero to five and their families; and
9	WHEREAS, the comprehensive services provided by ECSS fosters an environment
10	for learning, growth, and relationship building; and
11	WHEREAS, the program includes but is not limited to local, integrated, and
12	comprehensive systems of care for young children; and
13	WHEREAS, today, many families in Louisiana have been significantly impacted by
14	the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in rural and low-income communities facing mental
15	health service barriers for children; and
16	WHEREAS, Louisiana recently allocated available funds via the American Rescue
17	Plan Act of 2021 and hopes to bring back a successful program that supports families with
18	young children with mental health and wrap-around services; and
19	WHEREAS, the long-term success and sustainability of such a program requires a
20	multidisciplinary approach and cross-collaboration of state agencies; and

1	WHEREAS, the implementation of this program can significantly impact families
2	in need of services while diverting such families from costly programs like child welfare
3	interventions, the juvenile justice system, and lessening their dependance on social benefit
4	programs; and
5	WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Louisiana Legislature to propose rules and
6	regulations to utilize state funds for programs that pour into local communities and ensure
7	the safety of Louisiana citizens.
8	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
9	create a task force to support the cross-agency work associated with the creation of the Early
10	Childhood Supports and Services program in Louisiana and to hold the Louisiana
11	Department of Health accountable for the responsible and timely development and delivery
12	of the program.
13	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the council shall initially consist of the
14	following members:
15	(1) The professor of Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Public Health Head, Division of
16	Pediatric Mental Health, from the Louisiana State University Health School of Medicine or
17	his designee.
18	(2) The director of the Tulane Medical School Institute of Infant and Early
19	Childhood Mental Health or his designee.
20	(3) The assistant secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, office of
21	behavioral health, or his designee.
22	(4) The assistant program manager for Early Steps, Louisiana Department of Health,
23	office of citizens with developmental disabilities, or his designee.
24	(5) The assistant secretary of Family Support, Department of Children and Family
25	Services, or his designee.
26	(6) The deputy commissioner of the division of administration or his designee.
27	(7) The executive director of TrainingGrounds, Inc. or his designee.
28	(8) The executive director of the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families
29	or his designee.

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the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board.

1 (9) The executive director of the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children or his 2 designee. 3 (10) A representative from the Moms of Black Boys United for Social Change. 4 (11) A representative from the Early Childhood Systems, office of the governor, or 5 his designee. 6 (12) The president of the Louisiana Senate or his designee. 7 (13) The speaker of the Louisiana House of Representative or his designee. 8 (14) An appointee from the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board. 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall 10 provide staff to support the task force required by this Resolution and designate a chair at 11 its first meeting. 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall report its progress to the 13 Louisiana Legislature. 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before February 1, 2024, the task force 15 shall submit to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare and the David R. 16 Poynter Legislative Research Library a written report of its findings and recommendations. 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 18 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the professor of Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and 19 Public Health Head, Division of Pediatric Mental Health, from the Louisiana State 20 University Health School of Medicine, the executive director of the Tulane Medical School 21 Institute for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, the assistant secretary of the 22 Louisiana Department of Health, office of behavioral health, the assistant program manager 23 for Early Steps, Louisiana Department of Health, office of citizens with developmental 24 disabilities, the assistant secretary of Family Support, Department of Children and Family 25 Services, the deputy commissioner of the division of administration, the executive director 26 of TrainingGrounds, Inc., the executive director of the Louisiana Partnership for Children 27 and Families, the executive director of the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, Moms of 28 Black Boys United for Social Change, Early Childhood Systems, office of the governor, and

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DIGEST

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2023 Regular Session

McFarland

Creates a task force to support the cross-agency work associated with the creation of the Early Childhood Supports and Services program in Louisiana and to hold the La. Dept. of Health accountable for the responsible and timely development and delivery of the program.