

BY SENATORS DUPLESSIS AND MYERS

## A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, numerous research studies have shown that the involvement of fathers in the lives of their children beginning during the prenatal period contributes to improved social, emotional, cognitive, and language development, self-esteem, positive behavior, mental health, physical health, and overall well-being among their children; and

1 WHEREAS, research has also linked fathers' involvement with their children to  
2 improved health and well-being among both fathers and mothers and stronger relationship  
3 outcomes among parenting couples; and

4 WHEREAS, numerous state legislatures have prioritized supporting fatherhood  
5 involvement and engagement as an important strategy to improve outcomes across family  
6 and child-focused systems in their state; and

7 WHEREAS, Louisiana has an opportunity to strengthen the engagement of fathers  
8 across its health, child care, education, workforce, public safety, and child welfare systems.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
10 establish and provide for the Task Force on Fatherhood Engagement to research best  
11 practices and develop recommendations for each state agency to promote the full inclusion  
12 of fathers and the involvement of fathers in the lives of their children and to report its  
13 findings and recommendations by written report to the legislature and to the David R.  
14 Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than  
15 February 28, 2026.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following  
17 members:

18 (1) The director of early childhood systems in the office of the governor.

19 (2) The executive director of the Louisiana Children's Cabinet or her designee.

20 (3) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services or  
21 his designee.

22 (4) The superintendent of the Louisiana Department of Education or his designee.

23 (5) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections or  
24 his designee.

25 (6) The director of the bureau of family health within the Louisiana Department of  
26 Health or her designee.

27 (7) The director of the Louisiana Head Start Collaboration.

28 (8) A representative from Fathers on a Mission as a fatherhood-focused non-profit  
29 based in the Baton Rouge area.

30 (9) A representative from Dad-A-Port as a fatherhood program that focuses on

1 fathers who are formerly incarcerated.

2 (10) A representative from Fathers Matter NOLA as a fatherhood-focused program  
3 in the New Orleans area.

4 (11) A representative of the steering committee of the Geaux Far Louisiana  
5 Coalition.

6 (12) The chief executive officer of the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children or her  
7 designee.

8 (13) The executive director of the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families  
9 or her designee.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit the  
11 names of designees to the task force to director of early childhood systems in the office of  
12 the governor no later than July 31, 2025.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force shall convene for its first meeting no  
14 later than August 31, 2025, at the call of the director of early childhood systems in the office  
15 of the governor, and at the first meeting, the members shall elect a chairman and other  
16 officers as the task force may deem appropriate.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a draft report with preliminary recommendations  
18 shall be generated and reviewed at a meeting of the task force by January 31, 2026, and a  
19 final report with recommendations shall be generated and approved by the task force by  
20 February 28, 2026.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force meetings may be conducted in  
22 person or virtually using a secure web-based platform as authorized by law.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the duties of the task force shall include but not  
24 be limited to all of the following:

25 (1) Research and recommend best practices that would recognize and promote  
26 fathers' contributions to improving societal outcomes for children and families in Louisiana.

27 (2) Research and develop plans for how each state agency can promote the  
28 involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, including but not limited to the  
29 Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Education, the Louisiana  
30 Department of Health, and the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

1 (3) Research and develop programs and entities that foster the following:

2 (i) Workforce development programs that assist fathers in preparing for, finding and  
3 securing employment.

4 (ii) Parenting through skills-based educational programs that foster quality  
5 co-parenting relationships.

6 (iii) Development of conflict resolution skills training.

7 (4) Propose changes to statutes, regulations, administrative rules, and policies that  
8 impede the development or implementation of greater father involvement measures or that  
9 will enhance the prospect of success of those measures.

10 (5) Identify additional sources of funding, including non-governmental sources, to  
11 support programs that directly support fathers and responsible fatherhood.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be empowered to request and  
13 collect relevant data and information necessary to fulfill its purposes from state agencies and  
14 community-based organizations.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may, to the extent feasible, request  
16 such information and data at no cost.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall incorporate the findings from  
18 the study of other states' fatherhood initiatives in its comprehensive report of findings and  
19 policy recommendations.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff support for the task force meetings shall  
21 be provided by an agreed upon non-governmental entity in coordination with the director of  
22 early childhood systems in the office of the governor with no cost of administration being  
23 borne by the state.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a  
25 quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the  
26 affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve  
28 without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be  
29 individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on the date of the

1 submission of its report or February 28, 2026, whichever occurs first.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

3 director of early childhood systems in the office of the governor, the executive director of

4 the Louisiana Children's Cabinet, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Children and

5 Family Services, the superintendent of the Louisiana Department of Education, the secretary

6 of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the director of the bureau of

7 family health within the Louisiana Department of Health, the director of the Louisiana Head

8 Start Collaboration, the executive director of Fathers on a Mission, the founder of the

9 Dad-A-Port fatherhood program, the co-founders of Fathers Matter NOLA, the co-chairs of

10 the Geaux Far Louisiana Coalition, the chief executive officer of the Louisiana Policy

11 Institute for Children, and the executive director of the Louisiana Partnership for Children

12 and Families.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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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	DIGEST	
SCR 9 Original	2025 Regular Session	Duplessis

Creates the Task Force on Fatherhood Engagement to study how Louisiana can increase the engagement of fathers in the lives of their children, research best practices, and develop recommendations for each state agency to promote the full inclusion of fathers and the involvement of fathers in the lives of their children.