

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 374

BY REPRESENTATIVES BRASS AND KNOX

A RESOLUTION

To create the Youth Tobacco and Nicotine Cessation Task Force to study the effects and impacts of nicotine use by persons under twenty-one years of age, to identify pathways worth pursuing to address youth tobacco and nicotine use, strategies for prevention, cessation, and policy development tailored to Louisiana's youth population, and to report findings to the House and Senate health and welfare committees.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana has identified the growing use of nicotine products, including e-cigarettes and other tobacco products, among persons under the age of twenty-one as a significant public health concern; and

WHEREAS, the health risks associated with early nicotine exposure are well-documented, including impacts on brain development, increased likelihood of addiction, and long-term health consequences; and

WHEREAS, a task force is needed to help raise awareness of the impacts and potential health risks early nicotine exposure can have on persons under the age of twenty-one; and

WHEREAS, a task force will identify the prevalence of vaping and use of other tobacco products among the under twenty-one population, including demographic data and usage trends across regions and socioeconomic groups; and

WHEREAS, a task force will also identify pathways worth pursuing to address youth tobacco and nicotine use including but not limited to:

- (1) The initiation and onset of all product usage.
- (2) The short- and long-term health outcomes related to tobacco and nicotine consumption.
- (3) The enforcement of existing underage sales restrictions.

(4) Best practices for preventing usage on school grounds and in community settings.

(5) Taxation strategies as a deterrent to youth access and affordability.

(6) Access to evidence-based cessation products, treatment programs, and public education campaigns.

WHEREAS, in conducting its study, the task force shall also consider regulatory and policy approaches that do not unduly burden responsible businesses or infringe on the rights of adults who choose to legally use tobacco or nicotine products; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health shall oversee the task force, offer staff support, and coordinate meetings to discuss findings, recommendations and any proposed legislation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Youth Tobacco and Nicotine Cessation Task Force to study the effects of all tobacco and nicotine products, including but not limited to the use of all vapor products and tobacco products by persons under twenty-one years of age.

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

(1) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.

(2) The Louisiana State Superintendent of Education or his designee.

(3) The commissioner of the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control or his designee.

(4) Two representatives from the Louisiana Hospital Association.

(5) One representative from the Louisiana Rural Hospital Association.

(6) A representative from the Louisiana Cancer Research Center.

(7) The president of the American Cancer Society-Cancer Action Network or his designee.

(8) The president of the American Lung Association or his designee.

(9) The president of the American Heart Association or his designee.

(10) The president of the Louisiana School Boards Association or her designee.

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

(12) A representative of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council.

(13) The president of the Louisiana Association of Wholesalers or his designee.

(14) The president of the Louisiana Oil Marketers and Convenience Store Association or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall review existing case studies, public health data, and academic literature concerning youth tobacco and nicotine use, including:

(1) Studies demonstrating the physical, psychological, behavioral, and academic impacts of nicotine use on individuals under the age of twenty-one.

(2) Research identifying how and why youth initiate use of tobacco and vapor products, including social influences, peer behavior, accessibility, targeted marketing, and environmental factors.

(3) Scientific findings on the neurological and developmental vulnerability of youth due to tobacco and nicotine addiction.

(4) Prevention studies that evaluate the effectiveness of early intervention, school-based education, public health campaigns, and community programs in reducing youth tobacco and nicotine use.

(5) National averages and trend data on youth nicotine and tobacco product use, including comparisons to Louisiana-specific rates and demographic breakdowns.

(6) A comparative review of prevention and cessation programs implemented in other states, including models that have demonstrated success in reducing youth initiation and promoting long-term cessation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall use this comprehensive evidence base to guide its recommendations, with the goal of identifying actionable, effective, and appropriate strategies for prevention, cessation, and policy development tailored to Louisiana's youth population.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Department of Health shall oversee the task force, offer staff support, and coordinate meetings to report and discuss findings and recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the House Committee on Health and Welfare no later than January 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the Louisiana State Superintendent of Education, the commissioner of the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control, the president of the Louisiana Hospital Association, the president of the Louisiana Rural Health Association, the director of Louisiana Cancer Research Center, the American Cancer Society-Cancer Action Network in Louisiana, the president of the American Lung Association of Louisiana, the chief executive officer of the American Heart Association of Louisiana, the president of the Louisiana School Boards Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, the chair of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council, the president of the Louisiana Association of Wholesalers, and the president of the Louisiana Oil Marketers and Convenience Store Association.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES