

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 435

BY SENATOR MYERS

CHILDREN. Establishes the Commission on Fatherhood Engagement. (8/1/26)

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AN ACT

To enact Subpart C of Part II of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 46:261, relative to the Louisiana Commission on Fatherhood Engagement; to establish the commission within the office of the governor; to provide for the membership, powers, and duties of the commission; to provide for interagency cooperation; to provide for a termination date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Subpart C of Part II of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 46:261, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

SUBPART C. FATHERHOOD ENGAGEMENT

§261. Louisiana Commission on Fatherhood Engagement

A. There is hereby established within the office of the governor, the Louisiana Commission on Fatherhood Engagement, hereafter referred to as the "commission".

B. The commission shall be comprised of the following members:

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

1 **(2) The executive director of the Louisiana Children's Cabinet, or his**
2 **designee.**

3 **(3) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family**
4 **Services, or his designee.**

5 **(4) The superintendent of the Louisiana Department of Education, or his**
6 **designee.**

7 **(5) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and**
8 **Corrections, or his designee.**

9 **(6) The director of the bureau of family health within the Louisiana**
10 **Department of Health, or his designee.**

11 **(7) The secretary of Louisiana Works, or his designee.**

12 **(8) A member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate.**

13 **(9) A member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker**
14 **of the House of Representatives.**

15 **(10) A representative from the Louisiana Supreme Court.**

16 **(11) The director of the Louisiana Head Start Collaboration.**

17 **(12) The chief executive officer of the Louisiana Policy Institute for**
18 **Children, or his designee.**

19 **(13) A family court judge appointed by the governor.**

20 **(14) A representative of a faith community that promotes fatherhood**
21 **engagement.**

22 **(15) A representative from a parenting education organization that**
23 **works in multiple parishes.**

24 **(16) One representative each from an organization that provides**
25 **fatherhood programs in each of the nine public health regions of the state. If**
26 **there is no organization that provides fatherhood programs in any region, this**
27 **position shall be filled by a father who is a community leader or an additional**
28 **faith-based representative.**

29 **B. A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a**

1 quorum for the transaction of business, and all official action of the commission
2 shall require the favorable vote of a majority of those members present and
3 voting.

4 C. Members appointed to the commission shall serve two-year terms.
5 The directors, secretaries, and superintendents, or their designees shall serve
6 on the commission until they cease to be a director, secretary, or
7 superintendent. Each member shall serve on the commission from the date of
8 appointment until the end of the term for which the member was appointed.
9 Members may be reappointed.

10 D. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original
11 appointments. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the
12 expiration date of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed
13 shall serve on the commission for the remainder of that term. A member shall
14 continue to serve on the commission subsequent to the expiration date of the
15 member's term until the member's successor is appointed.

16 E. Members shall serve without compensation but shall be eligible for
17 reimbursement for necessary expenses.

18 F. The commission shall elect a chairperson from among its members in
19 every odd-numbered year.

20 G. The duties of the commission shall include but not be limited to all of
21 the following:

22 (1) Implementing the recommendations made by the Task Force on
23 Fatherhood Engagement and all ensuing recommendations developed and
24 approved by the commission.

25 (2) Raising awareness of the importance of fathers' engagement in the
26 lives of their children, resources and support available to Louisiana fathers, and
27 the challenges and barriers facing Louisiana fathers.

28 (3) Identifying resources available to fund fatherhood-related programs
29 and assist in the creation or expansion of initiatives that do the following:

1 (a) Promote responsible fatherhood.

2 (b) Build the parenting and co-parenting skills of fathers.

3 (c) Provide employment-related services for low-income fathers.

4 (d) Provide services to fathers who are incarcerated or have been
5 recently released from incarceration to allow them to maintain or reestablish
6 their relationships with their families.

7 (e) Reconcile fathers with their families.

8 (f) Provide support for effective fatherhood programming across state
9 agencies.

10 (g) Improve data collection and usage on fathers and fatherhood
11 engagement across agencies.

12 (h) Improve support for fathers during the prenatal period.

13 (i) Assist fathers with minor children in addressing barriers to accessing
14 and maintaining stable housing.

15 (j) Improve policies and practices to ensure fair and equal opportunities
16 for fathers in child custody, visitation, and family court proceedings.

17 (k) Increase public awareness of the critical role fathers play.

18 (4) Organizing a state summit on fatherhood at least once every four
19 years.

20 (5) Reporting annually on the commission's expectations for the
21 outcomes of fatherhood-related programs and initiatives and the methods the
22 commission uses for conducting annual measures of those outcomes.

23 (6) Submitting a comprehensive report to the legislature annually with
24 a funding request for fatherhood programs that are overseen by the commission
25 and allocated to community organizations to support programs and services
26 aligned with the commission's intent and purpose.

27 H. The provisions of this Section shall terminate on January 1, 2031.

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)]

DIGEST

SB 435 Original 2026 Regular Session Myers

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Commission of Fatherhood Engagement within the office of the governor as a continuation of the Task Force on Fatherhood Engagement initially created by SCR No. 9 of the 2025 R.S.

Proposed law provides for the membership of the commission, terms of the commission members, and duties of the commission.

Proposed law requires the commission to submit an annual report to the legislature.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 46:261)