

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 348

BY REPRESENTATIVE WALTERS

A RESOLUTION

To create a subcommittee to be comprised of members of the House Committee on Commerce to study whether persons working as funeral planners, funeral arrangers, end-of-life doulas, death doulas, or under any similar designation should be subject to state regulation, credentialing, and oversight, and to make recommendations for policy and legislative changes on or before November 1, 2026.

WHEREAS, demand for paid funeral planning and end-of-life doula services has expanded rapidly in recent years, while no state in the United States currently requires government licensure or certification to practice as a funeral planner or an end-of-life doula, and the most prominent national organization in the field, the National End-of-Life Doula Alliance, offers only a voluntary proficiency credential and does not accredit or evaluate any training program; and

WHEREAS, the absence of any state credentialing, bonding, or licensure requirement for persons offering paid funeral planning or end-of-life doula services in this state creates risks for licensed funeral directors and funeral homes, including the receipt of undisclosed referral fees or insurance commissions, the unauthorized acceptance of consumer payments for goods or services to be delivered upon death, exposure of licensed funeral establishments to civil liability arising from the acts of unlicensed third parties, and consumer confusion regarding qualifications and accountability, all of which warrant further study.

WHEREAS, this state licenses funeral directors, embalmers, funeral establishments, and crematory authorities through the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors pursuant to R.S. 37:831 et seq.; regulates cemeteries through the Louisiana Cemetery Board pursuant to Title 8 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950; restricts the entering into of preneed funeral contracts to duly licensed funeral establishments pursuant to R.S. 37:861; and prohibits funeral establishments and their agents from using "cappers, steerers, or runners" and from soliciting, accepting, or paying consideration for recommending a provider of funeral goods and services pursuant to R.S. 37:846(A)(3), but

does not define, license, register, or set qualifications for persons offering paid funeral planning or end-of-life doula services as a profession; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish and provide for a subcommittee of the House Committee on Commerce to study and recommend legislation, administrative rules, or other measures concerning the regulation, credentialing, and oversight of persons offering paid funeral planning, and may propose recommendations, together with specific proposals for legislation, and to make recommendations on or before November 1, 2026, unless the chair of the subcommittee determines additional time is needed. Any recommendations or proposals shall be submitted by written report to the legislature and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature recommends that the subcommittee include consideration of all of the following:

(1) Whether terms such as "funeral planner", "death doula", and related designations ought to be defined in law, the appropriate scope of practice for each, and any necessary exemptions for clergy, hospice workers, or volunteers.

(2) Whether such persons should be subject to licensure, registration, certification, bonding, or other credentialing, and the minimum education, training, examination, and continuing education standards appropriate to the profession.

(3) Whether a prohibition of undisclosed finder's fees, commissions, or other arrangements with licensed funeral establishments, cemetery authorities, crematories, or insurers; or restrictions on the handling of consumer funds and insurance products marketed in connection with funeral planning, consistent with R.S. 37:846, or with R.S. 37:861 through R.S. 37:866, and any other applicable provisions of the law and administrative codes of this state; ought to be enacted.

(4) Contractual disclosure, transparency, and right-of-cancellation requirements, and whether a consumer complaint, investigation, and disciplinary process is warranted, including civil penalties and grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of any license.

(5) The allocation of civil and criminal liability between licensed funeral establishments and unlicensed funeral planners or end-of-life doulas, and any necessary safe harbor or due diligence framework for licensed establishments interacting with such persons.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subcommittee shall hold public hearings to receive testimony from any interested party and shall specifically solicit advice and guidance from the Louisiana Funeral Directors Association, the Louisiana Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, the Louisiana Cemetery Association, and other funeral industry professionals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chair of the House Committee on Commerce or his designee shall serve as chair of the subcommittee at its initial meeting, to be held on or before August 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the Louisiana Funeral Directors Association, the president of the Louisiana Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, and the president of the Louisiana Cemetery Association.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES