

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 212

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

FAMILY/PRESERVATION: Continues a study committee tasked with examining and reporting on effective means by which to strengthen the structure of the African American family in all areas of relationships

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To continue the study committee created pursuant to House Resolution No. 146 of the 2012

3 Regular Session of the Legislature to examine and report on advancing the well-  
4 being of the African American family by strengthening all areas of family  
5 relationships.

6 WHEREAS, the purpose of this study is to examine methods of strengthening all  
7 areas of African American family relationships, including marital, parental, and spousal  
8 involvement; and

9 WHEREAS, while African American families share many features with other United  
10 States families, the African American family has some distinctive features and set of  
11 experiences which help shape their behaviors and attitudes toward family; and

12 WHEREAS, family values are the cornerstone of a person's personal and professional  
13 life; and

14 WHEREAS, there is a need for the involvement of faith-based organizations for the  
15 moral and spiritual growth of the African American family; and

16 WHEREAS, faith-based organizations are an integral part of the development of the  
17 family and the community; and

18 WHEREAS, the creation of a strong, cohesive family unit can improve African  
19 American performance in the areas of social, educational, and economic well-being; and

1           WHEREAS, to ensure proud, capable African American children requires enhanced  
2 parenting skills; and

3           WHEREAS, improved family functioning, specifically, in the area of parenting can  
4 discourage and reduce behavior problems in children; and

5           WHEREAS, the African American father has a pivotal role as a provider, protector,  
6 and disciplinarian, but he also is an equally important factor in the socialization of his  
7 children; and

8           WHEREAS, the communication skills gained at an early age become an integral part  
9 of navigating social situations, and ultimately in educational and professional advancement;  
10 and

11           WHEREAS, education is widely recognized as the gateway to economic security;  
12 and

13           WHEREAS, a parent's background and education are some of the primary factors  
14 impacting a child's performance in school; and

15           WHEREAS, the lack of an education and resulting poverty are strongly related to  
16 many of the family and social issues which plague the African American community; and

17           WHEREAS, understanding the structure of the African American family can play  
18 an important role in improving social skills, increasing educational attainment, creating  
19 economic opportunity, and providing a platform for greater civic, social, and political  
20 discourse; and

21           WHEREAS, this study shall provide an initial exploration of how family intervention  
22 programs can serve to strengthen the African American family unit.

23           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
24 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend the study committee, composed of members as  
25 hereinafter provided, to study and make recommendations with respect to the structure of  
26 the African American family as it relates to education outcomes, socioeconomic factors, and  
27 health disparities.

28           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall remain comprised of  
29 eleven members as follows:

30           (1) The secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals or his designee.

1           (2) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services or his  
2 designee.

3           (3) The superintendent of the Department of Education or his designee.

4           (4) The executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission or his designee.

5           (5) The president of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc.-Central Louisiana or  
6 his designee.

7           (6) The president of NAACP Shreveport Chapter or his designee.

8           (7) The president of the 100 Black Men of Metro Baton Rouge or his designee.

9           (8) The president of the Urban League of Greater New Orleans or his designee.

10          (9) The executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention or his designee.

11          (10) The bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette or his designee.

12          (11) The pastor of the River of Life Nondenominational Church in Winnsboro,  
13 Louisiana, or his designee.

14           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall appoint a chairman  
15 who shall facilitate the organization of the committee in the adoption of rules of procedure,  
16 adoption of a work schedule, and adoption of any additional measures that it deems  
17 necessary for the timely performance of its duties.

18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the study committee shall continue  
19 to serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for incurred expenses as provided by  
20 their respective organizations; and that other members shall be paid in accordance with state  
21 travel regulations by the respective departments, agencies, or associations of which they are  
22 officers or employees.

23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee may request and utilize  
24 such counsel, assistance, personnel, facilities, and advice as may be obtained from any and  
25 all sources, public and private, including but not limited to state agencies, business, labor,  
26 private research agencies, individuals, and organizations.

27           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee, at a minimum, shall review  
28 and consider the following: (1) improving parenting skills and techniques; (2) decreasing  
29 behavior problems in children; (3) discouraging and eliminating the desire to commit crimes;  
30 (4) connecting families with a higher power; (5) improving educational skills in parents and

1 children; (6) encouraging improvement of property standards; (7) introducing structured  
2 guidance in early education; (8) encouraging fatherhood training; (9) increasing access to  
3 pastoral training; and (10) offering single mother counseling services.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the study committee shall offer solutions to the  
5 issues in the African American community relative to marital, parental, and spousal  
6 involvement.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall have the authority to  
8 consider, investigate, and evaluate any and all other matters or issues relevant to  
9 strengthening the African American family.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall meet as necessary and  
11 shall report its findings to the House Committee on Health and Welfare not later than March  
12 1, 2014.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted  
14 to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals; the secretary of the Department  
15 of Children and Family Services; the superintendent of the Department of Education;  
16 executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission; the president of the Louis A.  
17 Martinet Legal Society, Inc.-Central Louisiana; the president of NAACP Shreveport  
18 Chapter; the president of the 100 Black Men of Metro Baton Rouge; the executive director  
19 of the Louisiana Baptist Convention; the bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette; and the pastor  
20 of the River of Life Nondenominational Church.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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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Barrow

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Continues a study committee to examine and report on advancing the well-being of the African American family by strengthening all areas of family relationships.