

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 81

BY REPRESENTATIVE THIERRY

SCHOOLS/FOOD PROGRAMS: Creates the Task Force on Summer Hunger

1                                   A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create the Task Force on Summer Hunger to study the strategies and best procedures by  
3 which the state and individual school districts can increase awareness of and  
4 participation in the United States Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service  
5 Program in areas with high rates of food insecurity and to provide for a written report  
6 of findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education and the  
7 Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of  
8 the 2016 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

9 WHEREAS, only fifty-five percent of children who eat free or reduced price lunch  
10 in the state of Louisiana receive school breakfast, and only nine percent of children who eat  
11 free or reduced price lunch receive summer meals; and

12 WHEREAS, the Summer Food Service Program is a federally funded program  
13 administered by the state Department of Education that ensures that low-income children  
14 continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session; and

15 WHEREAS, this summer, the program will serve more than two hundred million free  
16 meals nationwide at approved program sites, which are places in a community where  
17 children receive meals in a safe and supervised environment; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2011, an estimated thirty-five thousand students who received free  
19 or reduced price lunch in Louisiana lived in a parish without such sites; and

20 WHEREAS, it is imperative that a group of experts be convened to conduct a  
21 thorough investigation of strategies and procedures for increasing awareness of and

1 participation in the United States Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service  
2 Program in order to ensure that students in Louisiana receive nutritious summer meals.

3       THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
4 create the Task Force on Summer Hunger to study the strategies and procedures by which  
5 the state and individual school districts can increase awareness of and participation in the  
6 United States Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program in areas with high  
7 rates of food insecurity.

8       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be chaired by the director  
9 of the state Department of Education Division of Nutrition Support and shall be composed  
10 of the following members:

11       (1) The chairman of the House Committee on Education.

12       (2) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education.

13       (3) The superintendent of the East Baton Rouge Parish School District or his  
14 designee.

15       (4) The superintendent of the Recovery School District or his designee.

16       (5) The superintendent of the Caddo Parish School District or his designee.

17       (6) The superintendent of the Cameron Parish School District or his designee.

18       (7) The superintendent of the Caldwell Parish School District or his designee.

19       (8) The superintendent of the Terrebonne Parish School District or his designee.

20       (9) A representative of the Louisiana Food Bank Association.

21       (10) A representative of the Louisiana Association of United Ways.

22       (11) A representative of the Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans.

23       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of  
24 findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education and the Senate  
25 Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2016 Regular  
26 Session of the Legislature of Louisiana and that such recommendations shall include but not  
27 be limited to those relative to the following:

28       (1) The best practices to address the special challenges present in operating the  
29 Summer Food Service Program in rural areas, including recommendations relative to

1 transportation in rural areas and strategies to maintain participation at a high enough level  
2 to hold down costs per meal.

3 (2) The Community Eligibility Provision of the National School Lunch Program.

4 (3) The Seamless Summer Option of the Summer Food Service Program.

5 (4) The eligibility of homeless parents and children to participate in the Summer  
6 Food Service Program.

7 (5) The recruitment and retention of sponsors for the Summer Food Service  
8 Program.

9 (6) The involvement of school districts, churches, community centers, summer camp  
10 programs, and residential programs.

11 (7) The promotion of the Summer Free Lunch Program and strategies to increase  
12 community awareness and participation.

13 (8) Legislation, if any, relative to the issue.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state superintendent of education shall be  
15 responsible for designating state Department of Education staff to assist the task force in  
16 performing its duties.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
18 entities named in this Resolution to serve or be represented on the task force.

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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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HCR 81 Original

2015 Regular Session

Thierry

Establishes the Task Force on Summer Hunger to study strategies and best procedures by which the state and individual school districts can increase awareness of and participation in the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program in areas with high rates of food insecurity. Provides for a written report of findings and recommendations to the House and Senate education committees not later than 60 days prior to the beginning of the 2016 R. S.

The task force shall be chaired by the director of the state Dept. of Education (DOE) Division of Nutrition Support and composed of the following members:

- (1) The chairman of the House Committee on Education.
- (2) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education.
- (3) The superintendent of East Baton Rouge Parish School District or his designee.

- (4) The superintendent of the Recovery School District or his designee.
- (5) The superintendent of the Caddo Parish School District or his designee.
- (6) The superintendent of the Cameron Parish School District or his designee.
- (7) The superintendent of the Caldwell Parish School District or his designee.
- (8) The superintendent of the Terrebone Parish School District or his designee.
- (9) A representative of the La. Food Bank Association.
- (10) A representative of the La. Association of United Ways.
- (11) A representative of the Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Specifies that the state superintendent of education shall designate DOE staff to assist the task force in performing duties.