

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 81

BY REPRESENTATIVE THIERRY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, it is imperative that a group of experts be convened to conduct a thorough investigation of strategies and procedures for increasing awareness of and participation in the United States Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program in order to ensure that students in Louisiana receive nutritious summer meals.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be chaired by the director of the state Department of Education Division of Nutrition Support and shall be 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 the 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 Terrebonne Parish School District or his designee.
- (9) A representative of the Louisiana Food Bank Association.
- (10) A representative of the Louisiana Association of United Ways.
- (11) A representative of the Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans.

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

- (1) The best practices to address the special challenges present in operating the Summer Food Service Program in rural areas, including recommendations relative to transportation in rural areas and strategies to maintain participation at a high enough level to hold down costs per meal.
- (2) The Community Eligibility Provision of the National School Lunch Program.
- (3) The Seamless Summer Option of the Summer Food Service Program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE