

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

BY REPRESENTATIVES ORTEGO, BARRAS, BERTHELOT, CHAMPAGNE, GISCLAIR, GUILLORY, HARRISON, HUVAL, JOHNSON, JONES, LEBAS, MONToucET, SCHEXNAYDER, AND WHITNEY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To authorize and direct creation of the Uniform Bilingual Signage and Map Task Force; to provide for membership, powers, and duties of the task force; to provide for a report of its business; and to provide for related matters.

WHEREAS, the heritage of Louisiana's French-speaking people is one of the treasures of the unique and distinctive culture and lifestyle that originated in and have flourished in the southern region of our state; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately one quarter of a million French-speaking citizens and a million residents of French-language heritage in Louisiana, and millions of dollars are spent annually in our state by French-speaking visitors; and

WHEREAS, providing an official state map in the French language and uniform bilingual highway signage would encourage the preservation of south Louisiana's French cultural heritage and would provide important services to French-speaking residents and visitors alike.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby authorize and direct the creation of the Uniform Bilingual Signage and Map Task Force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be authorized and directed to study, evaluate, analyze, and review all aspects of the feasibility of creating and producing an official state map of locally recognized names as used by native born Louisianians, including those of Franco-American, Anglo-Celt, Afro-Americans, and Native American descent for the use of the general public, tourists, and scholars.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Uniform Bilingual Signage and Map Task Force is hereby created. The membership of the task force shall be as follows:

(1) The secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development or his designee.

(2) A member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

(3) A member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate.

(4) The lieutenant governor or his designee.

(5) Seven people appointed by the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL).

(6) One member representing each of the metropolitan planning organizations in the state, to be selected by each of the respective organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the terms of the members shall commence on August 1, 2012, and shall terminate on March 1, 2013.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the initial meeting of the task force shall be convened no later than August 1, 2012, by the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development. At such initial meeting, the members of the task force shall select from among its membership a chair and such other officers as it deems necessary. The task force shall provide for the manner and frequency of meetings that will be conducted and for all other ancillary administrative matters which must be determined in order to function as a task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority, and vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. Task force members shall not receive compensation or a per diem for serving on the task force; however, legislative members of the task force shall receive the same per diem and travel allowance as is normally provided for meetings of legislative committees, payable out of funds appropriated for expenses of the legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be authorized and directed to study, evaluate, analyze, and review all aspects of the feasibility of creating and producing an official state map in the French language and uniform bilingual highway signage, including but not limited to safety issues, ease of direction, tourism aid, potential sources of revenue for the production of such maps and bilingual signage, and for the future maintenance of such maps and signage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Uniform Bilingual Signage and Map Task Force shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House and Senate committees on transportation, highways, and public works no later than March 1, 2013, and such task force shall officially terminate upon submission of the report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president of the Senate, the lieutenant governor, and the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL).

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE