

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 90

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create a task force to study and evaluate the effectiveness of sexual health education programs used throughout the state and other states and to submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, as stated in the Constitution of Louisiana, it is the goal of the public education system to provide learning environments and experiences at all stages of human development that are humane, just, and designed to promote excellence in order that every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:281 authorizes each public elementary or secondary school in the state to offer age-appropriate instruction in subject matter designated as "sex education"; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's rates of teen-birth and sexually transmitted disease such as chlamydia, syphilis, gonorrhea, and HIV are among the highest in the nation; and

WHEREAS, education is the key to reducing the number of cases of sexually transmitted disease and the number of teen pregnancies and to building stronger families and a healthier future for Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every student an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is imperative that a balanced group of experts thoroughly study and evaluate sexual health education programs so that determinations can be made as to how the state can best provide experiences and opportunities to students that help them succeed in all aspects of life.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby creates a task force to study and evaluate the effectiveness of sexual health education programs used throughout the state and other states.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the following members:

(1) A representative of the Department of Children and Family Services, designated by the secretary of the department.

(2) A representative of the office of public health of the Department of Health and Hospitals, designated by the secretary of the department.

(3) A representative of the state Department of Education, designated by the state superintendent of education.

(4) One local school superintendent, designated by the president of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.

(5) One public high school principal, designated by the president of the Louisiana Association of Principals.

(6) A representative of the Children's Defense Fund, designated by the director of the Louisiana office of the Children's Defense Fund.

(7) The executive director of the Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies or his designee.

(8) The executive director of Louisiana Women's Policy and Research Commission or his designee.

(9) The executive director of the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families or his designee.

(10) The executive director of the Louisiana Assembly on School-Based Health Care or his designee.

(11) The chief executive officer of the Louisiana Public Health Institute or his designee.

(12) The senior community coordinator of Connect to Protect or his designee.

(13) The executive director of the Louisiana chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics or his designee.

(14) The executive director of PICO Louisiana Interfaith Together or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this report shall focus on the evaluation of the effectiveness of sexual health and abstinence-only education programs used throughout the state and other states, particularly with respect to how these programs address high risk behaviors that result in teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, and shall include information on the content of curricula and programs, the extent of use and participation by city, parish, and other local public school systems, the identification of areas of potential improvement, including how to address the state's high rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease more effectively, and any recommendations for legislation related to sexual health education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals or his designee shall be responsible for designating staff to assist the task force in performing its duties and, by August 1, 2013, convening the task force for its first meeting, at which the task force shall adopt rules of procedure, a work schedule, and any additional measures that it deems necessary for the timely performance of its duties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force shall serve without compensation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state superintendent of education, the executive director of the Office of Louisiana Youth for Excellence (LYFE), and the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals who shall be responsible for transmitting a copy to each of the groups, organizations, and offices from which the members of the task force are being selected or designated.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE