

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 91

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create the Task Force on Bullying Prevention in Public Schools to study the procedures and processes by which incidents of bullying are reported and investigated and to provide for submission of a written report of task force findings, conclusions, 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 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. 17:416.13(B) requires the governing authority of each public elementary and secondary school to incorporate into a student code of conduct a policy prohibiting the bullying of a student by another student; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:416.13(D) requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in collaboration with the state Department of Education, to develop and adopt rules and regulations relative to the procedures and processes used to report and investigate bullying, including a time line for investigation, written reports, parental notification, and the interviewing of students regarding bullying incidents; and

WHEREAS, student safety should be the utmost priority at both the state and local levels, and in spite of current law, there are students who are bullied by other students; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that the procedures and processes for the reporting and investigation of bullying effectively provide for the thorough investigation of bullying incidents, the appropriate responses to students who exhibit bullying behaviors and to

students who are bullying targets, and the establishment of preventative measures to reduce the recurrence of bullying; and

WHEREAS, in order for the public education system to meet its constitutional goal of providing learning environments and experiences at all stages of human development that are humane, just, and designed to promote excellence, it is imperative that every possible precaution be taken to ensure the protection of Louisiana's students from bullying.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Task Force on Bullying Prevention in Public Schools to study the procedures and processes by which incidents of bullying are reported and investigated.

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

(1) A member of the staff of the state Department of Education who shall be designated by the state superintendent of education and who shall serve as chair of the task force and, by August 1, 2013, shall convene 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.

(2) A representative of the school climate section of the state Department of Education's division of consolidated programming, designated by the director of this division.

(3) A representative of the Louisiana Association of School Executives, designated by the executive director of the association.

(4) A representative of the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, designated by the president of the federation.

(5) A representative of the Louisiana Association of Educators, designated by the president of the association.

(6) A representative of the Association of Professional Educators of Louisiana, designated by the executive director of the association.

(7) The president of the Louisiana School Counselor Association or his designee.

(8) A representative of the Louisiana Assembly on School-Based Health Centers, designated by the executive director of the assembly.

(9) A representative of the Schools First Project of the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana, designated by the director of the Schools First Project.

(10) The executive director of the Louisiana chapter of the National Association of Social Workers or his designee.

(11) A representative of the office of the governor, designated by the governor.

(12) Any additional education practitioner who has experience addressing the issue of bullying, designated by the state superintendent of education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of findings, conclusions, 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 2014 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 notification of parents of students involved in bullying investigations.

(2) The time line for the investigation of bullying, including the commencement of the investigation after a written report is received and the duration of the investigation.

(3) The nature of written reports required to be filed by teachers, principals, and other school employees in the course of bullying investigations, including recommendations relative to the appropriate level of detail required in a bullying incident report.

(4) Best practices for identifying the underlying causes or motives for bullying, including identifying attributes of students who exhibit bullying behavior, students who are targets of bullying, and students who are bystanders, effective interventions at various grade levels, and evidence-based prevention programs.

(5) Best practices for responding to bullying incidents and preventing future bullying incidents, including measures such as restorative justice practices that take into account the full context of the bullying incident in the school community and the age, development status, and history of the students involved.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall also include a report on the implementation of R.S. 17:416.13(B)(2)(b), which requires the governing authority of each public elementary and secondary school to create a program to provide a minimum of four

hours of training each year for all school employees, including bus drivers, with respect to bullying.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall meet at least three times prior to the submission of its written report and 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, and to the state superintendent of education who shall be responsible for transmitting a copy to each of the offices, associations, or organizations 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