

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 212

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

FAMILY/PRESERVATION: Continues a study committee tasked with examining and reporting on effective means by which to strengthen the structure of the African American family in all areas of relationships

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To continue the study committee created pursuant to House Resolution No. 146 of the 2012

3 Regular Session of the Legislature to examine and report on advancing the well-

4 being of the African American family by strengthening all areas of family

5 relationships.

6 WHEREAS, the purpose of this study is to examine methods of strengthening all

7 areas of African American family relationships, including marital, parental, and spousal

8 involvement; and

9 WHEREAS, while African American families share many features with other United

10 States families, the African American family has some distinctive features and set of

11 experiences which help shape their behaviors and attitudes toward family; and

12 WHEREAS, family values are the cornerstone of a person's personal and professional

13 life; and

14 WHEREAS, there is a need for the involvement of faith-based organizations for the

15 moral and spiritual growth of the African American family; and

16 WHEREAS, faith-based organizations are an integral part of the development of the

17 family and the community; and

18 WHEREAS, the creation of a strong, cohesive family unit can improve African

19 American performance in the areas of social, educational, and economic well-being; and

1 WHEREAS, to ensure proud, capable African American children requires enhanced
2 parenting skills; and

3 WHEREAS, improved family functioning, specifically, in the area of parenting can
4 discourage and reduce behavior problems in children; and

5 WHEREAS, the African American father has a pivotal role as a provider, protector,
6 and disciplinarian, but he also is an equally important factor in the socialization of his
7 children; and

8 WHEREAS, the communication skills gained at an early age become an integral part
9 of navigating social situations, and ultimately in educational and professional advancement;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, education is widely recognized as the gateway to economic security;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, a parent's background and education are some of the primary factors
14 impacting a child's performance in school; and

15 WHEREAS, the lack of an education and resulting poverty are strongly related to
16 many of the family and social issues which plague the African American community; and

17 WHEREAS, understanding the structure of the African American family can play
18 an important role in improving social skills, increasing educational attainment, creating
19 economic opportunity, and providing a platform for greater civic, social, and political
20 discourse; and

21 WHEREAS, this study shall provide an initial exploration of how family intervention
22 programs can serve to strengthen the African American family unit.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
24 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend the study committee, composed of members as
25 hereinafter provided, to study and make recommendations with respect to the structure of
26 the African American family as it relates to education outcomes, socioeconomic factors, and
27 health disparities.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall remain comprised of
29 eleven members as follows:

30 (1) The secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals or his designee.

1 (2) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services or his
2 designee.

3 (3) The superintendent of the Department of Education or his designee.

4 (4) The executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission or his designee.

5 (5) The president of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc.-Central Louisiana or
6 his designee.

7 (6) The president of NAACP Shreveport Chapter or his designee.

8 (7) The president of the 100 Black Men of Metro Baton Rouge or his designee.

9 (8) The president of the Urban League of Greater New Orleans or his designee.

10 (9) The executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention or his designee.

11 (10) The bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette or his designee.

12 (11) The pastor of the River of Life Nondenominational Church in Winnsboro,
13 Louisiana, or his designee.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall appoint a chairman
15 who shall facilitate the organization of the committee in the adoption of rules of procedure,
16 adoption of a work schedule, and adoption of any additional measures that it deems
17 necessary for the timely performance of its duties.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the study committee shall continue
19 to serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for incurred expenses as provided by
20 their respective organizations; and that other members shall be paid in accordance with state
21 travel regulations by the respective departments, agencies, or associations of which they are
22 officers or employees.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee may request and utilize
24 such counsel, assistance, personnel, facilities, and advice as may be obtained from any and
25 all sources, public and private, including but not limited to state agencies, business, labor,
26 private research agencies, individuals, and organizations.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee, at a minimum, shall review
28 and consider the following: (1) improving parenting skills and techniques; (2) decreasing
29 behavior problems in children; (3) discouraging and eliminating the desire to commit crimes;
30 (4) connecting families with a higher power; (5) improving educational skills in parents and

1 children; (6) encouraging improvement of property standards; (7) introducing structured
2 guidance in early education; (8) encouraging fatherhood training; (9) increasing access to
3 pastoral training; and (10) offering single mother counseling services.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the study committee shall offer solutions to the
5 issues in the African American community relative to marital, parental, and spousal
6 involvement.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall have the authority to
8 consider, investigate, and evaluate any and all other matters or issues relevant to
9 strengthening the African American family.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall meet as necessary and
11 shall report its findings to the House Committee on Health and Welfare not later than March
12 1, 2014.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted
14 to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals; the secretary of the Department
15 of Children and Family Services; the superintendent of the Department of Education;
16 executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission; the president of the Louis A.
17 Martinet Legal Society, Inc.-Central Louisiana; the president of NAACP Shreveport
18 Chapter; the president of the 100 Black Men of Metro Baton Rouge; the executive director
19 of the Louisiana Baptist Convention; the bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette; and the pastor
20 of the River of Life Nondenominational Church.

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)]

Barrow

HR No. 212

Continues a study committee to examine and report on advancing the well-being of the African American family by strengthening all areas of family relationships.