



1           WHEREAS, in research conducted by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention,  
2 it was estimated that health-related costs of domestic violence exceed eight billion three  
3 hundred million dollars annually; and

4           WHEREAS, according to a study by the United States Department of Labor, spouses  
5 and intimate partners lose eight million work days to domestic violence every year, which  
6 is equivalent to cutting thirty-two thousand one hundred fourteen jobs from the economy;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, it has been estimated by the Bureau of National Affairs that domestic  
9 violence costs employers over five billion dollars annually in the form of increased health  
10 care costs, absenteeism, reduced productivity, and related security costs; and

11           WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature recognizes the need to assist victims of  
12 domestic abuse battery, and in order to prevent future incidents of domestic violence, to  
13 provide assistance to the offender as well; and

14           WHEREAS, Louisiana law currently requires a domestic abuse battery offender to  
15 participate in a court-approved domestic abuse intervention program; and

16           WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature recognizes the importance of ensuring that  
17 these programs utilize responsible intervention methods and employ proven methods and  
18 evidence-based best practices used in this state and other states to reduce the incidents of  
19 domestic violence; and

20           WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature recognizes the necessity of providing  
21 effective domestic abuse intervention programs which directly address the issues and needs  
22 of the offender while maintaining a focus on the violent behavior of the offender and the  
23 safety of the victim; and

24           WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature recognizes the need for the development of  
25 minimum standards and qualifications for court-approved domestic abuse intervention  
26 programs in this state which will help to define the program structure, format, content, and  
27 techniques, to aid practitioners in designing new programs or adapting changes to existing  
28 programs, and to act as a guide for court systems when deciding which programs are  
29 appropriate for court referral; and

1           WHEREAS, in developing these standards, it is necessary that the Louisiana  
2 Coalition Against Domestic Abuse evaluate the existing court-approved domestic abuse  
3 intervention programs across the state, and to study similar programs in other states to help  
4 determine responsible, evidence-based best practices in the field of domestic abuse  
5 intervention.

6           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
7 urge and request the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence to appoint and convene  
8 a task force, to be known as the "Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence Task  
9 Force", to evaluate existing court-approved domestic abuse intervention programs across the  
10 state, to study similar programs in other states to determine responsible, evidence-based best  
11 practices in the field of domestic abuse intervention, and to report to the Committee on the  
12 Administration of Criminal Justice of the Louisiana House of Representatives its findings  
13 and recommendations relative to the development of minimum standards for domestic abuse  
14 intervention programs in this state.

15           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Abuse  
16 Task Force shall include representation of the following entities: the Department of  
17 Children and Family Services; the Department of Health and Hospitals, office of public  
18 health; the Department of Public Safety and Corrections; the Department of Public Safety  
19 and Corrections, office of juvenile justice; the Louisiana District Attorneys Association; the  
20 Louisiana Public Defender Board; the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association; the Louisiana  
21 Association of Chiefs of Police; the Louisiana Commission on Marriage and Family; the  
22 Women's Policy and Research Commission; the District Judges Association; and any other  
23 agency or entities which the department deems appropriate.

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic  
25 Abuse Task Force report its findings and recommendations to the Committee on the  
26 Administration of Criminal Justice of the Louisiana House of Representatives prior to the  
27 convening of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

28           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
29 Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Abuse.

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)]

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Hutter

HCR No. 86

Requests the La. Coalition Against Domestic Abuse to appoint and convene a task force to be known as the "Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence Task Force" to evaluate existing court-approved domestic abuse intervention programs across the state, to study similar programs in other states to determine responsible, evidence-based best practices in the field of domestic abuse intervention, and to report to its findings and recommendations relative to the development of minimum standards for domestic abuse intervention programs in this state.