

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 168

BY REPRESENTATIVE BILLIOT

CHILDREN/FOSTER CARE: Creates the Task Force on Youth Aging Out of Foster Care to study public policy and financing options for youth aging out of foster care

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create the Task Force on Youth Aging Out of Foster Care to study and explore the public
3 policy and financing options for programs that could assist youth aging out of foster
4 care to achieve successful independence once they reach the age of majority, and to
5 require the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the House
6 Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
7 no later than February 1, 2016.

8 WHEREAS, though attaining a permanent family and maintaining permanent
9 connections are priorities for all youth in foster care, not all such youth achieve these goals
10 prior to exiting foster care; and

11 WHEREAS, national studies indicate that more than one in five former foster youth
12 will become homeless after obtaining the age of eighteen; and

13 WHEREAS, only fifty-eight percent of former foster youth will graduate high school
14 by age nineteen compared to seventy-one percent of all nineteen year olds in Louisiana; and

15 WHEREAS, seventy-one percent of young women who are former foster youth will
16 become pregnant by age twenty-one, facing higher rates of unemployment, criminal
17 conviction, reliance on public assistance, and involvement in the child welfare system; and

18 WHEREAS, at the age of twenty-four, only half of former foster youth are employed;
19 and

1 WHEREAS, fewer than three percent of former foster youth will earn a college
2 degree by age twenty-five compared to twenty-eight percent of all twenty-five year olds
3 nationally; and

4 WHEREAS, one in four former foster youth will be involved in the justice system
5 within two years of leaving the foster care system; and

6 WHEREAS, it is currently recognized that most young adults upon reaching age
7 eighteen are not fully capable of assuming complete independence and becoming successful
8 without continued support, guidance, and assistance from parents, family, and others; and

9 WHEREAS, foster care youth who exit care at age eighteen without a permanent
10 family may lack the parental and familial support necessary to support their successful
11 transition to adulthood; and

12 WHEREAS, while current law provides for foster care services to youth in foster
13 care up to age eighteen, youth exiting foster care after age eighteen could benefit from
14 additional supports and services to successfully transition to adulthood; and

15 WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2013-2014, one hundred sixty-two foster care youth
16 exited foster care at age eighteen in Louisiana.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
18 create the Task Force on Youth Aging Out of Foster Care to study and explore the public
19 policy and financing options for programs and services that could assist youth aging out of
20 foster care to achieve successful independence once they reach the age of majority.

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

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

25 (2) The secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals or his designee.

26 (3) The president of the Juvenile Judges Association or his designee.

27 (4) A member of the Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
28 Association.

29 (5) The executive director of the Louisiana Association of Children and Family
30 Agencies or his designee.

1 (6) The executive director of the National Association of Social Workers, Louisiana
2 Chapter, or his designee.

3 (7) One member appointed by the board of directors of Louisiana Progress.

4 (8) One representative of the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops.

5 (9) The president of LouisianaChildren.org or his designee.

6 (10) The executive director of the Louisiana Foster and Adoptive Parent Association
7 or his designee.

8 (11) The executive director of HP Serve or his designee.

9 (12) The executive director of Covenant House - New Orleans or his designee.

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

11 (14) The state superintendent of education or his designee.

12 (15) The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System or
13 his designee.

14 (16) The president of the Louisiana Board of Regents or his designee.

15 (17) One representative from the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program
16 Independent Living Provider Coalition.

17 (18) The executive director of the Louisiana Housing Corporation or his designee.

18 (19) Two former foster care youth who have aged out of the foster care system
19 chosen randomly from a list of names submitted by the other members of the task force.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall convene no later than August
21 15, 2015, and shall be chaired by the secretary of the Department of Children and Family
22 Services, or his designee, who shall be responsible for calling all meetings. The task force
23 shall be staffed by the Department of Children and Family Services. The majority of the total
24 membership shall constitute a quorum and any official action of the task force shall require
25 a vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of
27 its findings and recommendations to the members of the House Committee on Health and
28 Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare no later than February 1, 2016.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted
30 to the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services.

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)]

HCR 168 Original

2015 Regular Session

Billiot

Creates the Task Force on Youth Aging Out of Foster Care to study and explore the public policy and financing options for programs that could assist youth aging out of foster care to achieve successful independence once they reach the age of majority and requires the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare no later than Feb. 1, 2016.