SLS 19RS-728 ORIGINAL

2019 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 42

BY SENATOR APPEL AND REPRESENTATIVE BRASS

WORKFORCE COMMISSION. Creates a task force to study Louisiana's workforce shortages and to better prepare students for 21st century jobs.

## A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create and establish the Work-Based Learning Task Force that engages industry, government, high schools, and postsecondary schools to undertake a national and statewide review of successful, high-value, work-based learning programs and projects; to set a vision, goals, and targets for statewide impact; to develop a comprehensive, coordinated, statewide framework and implementation plan for Louisiana; to identify policies and strategies that will lead to the expansion, improvement, and better coordination of existing work-based learning initiatives in the state; and to make policy recommendations to the legislature for a large scale, coordinated work-based learning model in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Louisiana industry is grappling with a shortage of qualified, credentialed workers in growing fields such as healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and digital technology that provide family-supporting wages and career growth opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana and nationwide employers recognize a gap between the education students receive in our high schools and postsecondary institutions and the skills needed in the 21st century workplace. In addition to specific knowledge and technical training, employers seek workers who understand the culture and expectations of the

workplace including strong communication and problem-solving, among other essential skills; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has one of the highest poverty rates in the country at more than eighteen percent and many of those who live and raise children in poverty do not have the work skills or credentials for employment in careers that provide a family-supporting wage, and do not have the means or time to attend college. The state's unemployed and underemployed citizens are disproportionally minorities; and

WHEREAS, for Louisiana's economy to grow, the state must ensure that citizens can obtain skills and credentials that meet the needs of employers that provide living wages; and

WHEREAS, the state will not be able to meet its workforce needs, reduce poverty, and improve the economic health of the state and its citizens without closing gaps for minorities and impoverished communities; and

WHEREAS, work-based learning initiatives and programs that include wages, college credit, and/or industry recognized credentials, and on-the-job training are a proven method for closing the gaps between worker skills and employer needs to help develop state and local economies. These "earn-and-learn" models provide a financially viable path for students and workers to and through postsecondary education opportunities, and provide opportunities for business to upskill and retrain workers; and

WHEREAS, experiential or work-based learning opportunities are an effective way to connect underserved populations to family-supporting careers; and

WHEREAS, a statewide framework for work-based learning opportunities that is driven by industry and supported by education and workforce development policy and practice in high schools and postsecondary institutions will provide the foundation for greater industry and education alignment to meet the workforce needs and economic goals of the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create and establish the Work-Based Learning Task Force to study and evaluate existing work-based learning programs, develop a strategy, and establish a framework that builds and sustains industry engagement in valuable work-based learning activities, encourage robust partnerships between employers and education providers, coordinate across state and local

1	agencies, increase alignment between workforce and education policies and funding streams,
2	target funding and incentives, and collect and evaluate data.
3	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of all of the
4	following:
5	(1) The Commissioner of Higher Education, or his designee, who shall serve as
6	Chair.
7	(2) The Louisiana State Superintendent of Education, or his designee.
8	(3) The president of each of the four (4) public postsecondary management boards,
9	or their designees.
10	(4) The president of Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges & Universities,
11	or his designee.
12	(5) The executive director of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents,
13	or his designee.
14	(6) The executive director of the Louisiana Association of School Boards, or his
15	designee.
16	(7) A current Louisiana high school student appointed by the State Superintendent
17	of Education.
18	(8) The president of Council of Student Body Presidents, or his designee.
19	(9) The executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, or his designee.
20	(10) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development, or his designee.
21	(11) The president of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, or his
22	designee.
23	(12) The president of the National Federation of Business and Industry, or his
24	designee.
25	(13) The president of the Louisiana American Federation of Labor & Congress of
26	Industrial Organizations, or his designee.
27	(14) The chair of the Senate Committee on Education, or his designee.
28	(15) The chair of the House Committee on Education, or his designee.
29	(16) Eight members representing the business or industry community to be appointed
30	by Department of Economic Development from nominations submitted by the Louisiana

1	Association of Chambers of Commerce Executives, the Committee of 100 for Economic
2	Development, Inc., the Regional Economic Development Organizations, and the Louisiana
3	Association of Business and Industry, half of whom must be currently engaged in work-
4	based learning activities.
5	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a vacancy in task force membership shall be
6	filled in the manner of the original appointment.
7	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall hold its organizational
8	meeting within ninety days after adjournment sine die of the 2019 Regular Session of the
9	Legislature and that at the organizational meeting the task force shall confirm the chairman,
10	elect a vice chairman, elect such other officers as may be necessary, and adopt rules for its
11	own procedures, which rules shall be subject to later amendment by the task force.
12	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall determine a strategy and
13	framework for recommendation to the legislature on all matters relevant to the
14	implementation of work-based learning programs, which shall include but not be limited to
15	all of the following:
16	(1) A report that identifies and examines successful work-based learning programs
17	nationally and within the state, including pertinent background material, data, an inventory
18	of existing state and local programs and partnerships for work-based learning, and
19	recognized best practices that may serve as models for a statewide work-based learning
20	program in Louisiana.
21	(2) A policy agenda for the state's work-based learning initiative which shall include
22	at a minimum:
23	(a) A comprehensive review of statewide laws and policies with the greatest potential
24	impact on the successful creation and implementation of a statewide framework for valuable
25	work-based learning models. The framework shall include all of the following:
26	(i) Identification of a statewide and regional framework for collaboration between
27	high schools, postsecondary institutions, and industry that leverages existing programs,
28	partnerships, and funding.
29	(ii) An intermediary model for the coordination and implementation of regional and
30	statewide work-based learning efforts, common language defining valuable work-based

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learning experiences, and a plan and timeline to scale up.

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(iii) Identification of methods and efforts to ensure access and equity to work-based learning opportunities for Louisiana's underserved populations.

- (iv) A funding model to support and sustain valuable work-based learning programs that include college credit and/or industry-based credentials, on-the-job work for pay, and other related expenses, as well as the infrastructure required to implement these programs.
  - (3) A plan for the implementation of the recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation unless the agency or organization for which the task force member serves agrees to reimburse the task force member for his per diem or expenses based upon the agency or organization's existing budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than 30 days prior to the start of the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the persons or entities named in this Resolution to serve or be represented on the task force.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Carla S. Roberts.

DIGEST 2019 Regular Session

Appel

Creates the Work-Based Learning Task Force that engages industry, government, and secondary and postsecondary schools to undertake a national and statewide review of successful high-value, work-based learning programs and projects; to set a vision, goals, and targets for statewide impact; to develop a comprehensive, coordinated statewide framework and implementation plan for Louisiana; to identify policies and strategies that will lead to the expansion, improvement, and better coordination of existing work-based learning initiatives in the state; and to make policy recommendations to the legislature for a large scale, coordinated, work-based learning model in Louisiana.

Provides for the task force membership and its powers and duties.