

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 134

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force, in consultation with the Louisiana Department of Health, Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Transportation and Development, and Department of Public Safety and Corrections, to study the feasibility of creating a program to provide education on child passenger safety and coordinate the distribution of child safety seats to families in need.

WHEREAS, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children in Louisiana, but many of these deaths can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, always buckling children in age- and size-appropriate car seats, booster seats, and seat belts reduces serious injuries and death by up to eighty percent; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, over six hundred child passengers ages twelve and younger were killed in motor vehicle crashes in the United States, and more than sixty-three thousand were injured; and

WHEREAS, of the children who were killed in a crash, thirty-eight percent were not buckled up; and

WHEREAS, parents and caregivers can make a lifesaving difference by ensuring that their children are properly buckled on every trip; and

WHEREAS, child safety seat use reduces the risk for injury in a crash by seventy-one to eighty-two percent for children, when compared with seat belt use alone; and

WHEREAS, car seat and booster seat distribution plus education programs can also increase restraint use; and

WHEREAS, these programs help parents and caregivers get new, unused car seats or booster seats and learn how to properly install and use them, and often include hands-on

demonstrations which can help increase proper installation and use; and

WHEREAS, other states such as Texas operate a successful child safety seat distribution and education program that can serve as a model for developing a program in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission's Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force is dedicated to raising awareness about all aspects of occupant protection, especially child passenger safety.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force, in consultation with the Louisiana Department of Health, Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Transportation and Development, and Department of Public Safety and Corrections, to study the feasibility of creating a program to provide education on child passenger safety and coordinate the distribution of child safety seats to families in need.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in conducting the study requested by this Resolution, the task force shall research all of the following:

(1) Best practices followed by programs established in other states.

(2) State, federal, charitable, or other private resources available to provide funding for a program in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in conducting the study requested by this Resolution, the Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force, in consultation with the Louisiana Department of Health, Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Transportation and Development, and Department of Public Safety and Corrections, shall develop a plan for a Louisiana child safety seat distribution and education program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, in developing the plan required by this Resolution, shall specifically determine the desirability and feasibility of implementing a policy similar to the current child safety seat distribution and education program administered by the Texas State Department of Health Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in carrying out the purposes of this Resolution, the task force shall engage and solicit input, recommendations, and advice from all interested parties and stakeholders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation if necessary and a written copy of the plan for a Louisiana child safety seat distribution and education program, no later than February 1, 2024. The report shall include objective, fiscally feasible recommendations to the legislature for the implementation of policies that could be adopted by the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be submitted to the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, Louisiana Department of Health, Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Transportation and Development, and Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE