

2024 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 136

BY SENATOR BARROW

STUDENTS. Establishes a task force to study and make recommendations relative to pathways to increase educational participation of students who are mothers.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create and provide for the Task Force on Education Participation of Student Mothers.

3 WHEREAS, student mothers are individuals who have dependent children and who
4 attend postsecondary educational institutions; and

5 WHEREAS, student mothers often face challenges, including lack of affordable
6 childcare and balancing work responsibilities with the demands of postsecondary education;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, work interruptions caused by childcare have disproportionately
9 impacted women, forcing them to reduce work hours, take leaves of absence, or permanently
10 leave the workforce or abandon postsecondary educational opportunities; and

11 WHEREAS, a 2020 report by the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice
12 revealed that student mothers are more likely to experience food and housing insecurities
13 while relying on public assistance; and

14 WHEREAS, the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis found that by earning a degree
15 or credential, a low-income student mother boosts their income and the earning potential of
16 their children when those children become adults.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
18 does hereby establish and provide for the Task Force on Education Participation of Student

1 Mothers to study ways to increase educational participation and opportunities designed to
2 support mothers in joining, rejoining, or advancing in the workforce, and to propose
3 recommendations, together with specific proposals for legislation, by written report to the
4 Senate of the Louisiana Legislature and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research
5 Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than March 1, 2025.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following
7 members:

8 (1) The president of the Senate or his designee, who shall serve as the chairman of
9 the task force.

10 (2) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education or his designee.

11 (3) The chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Women and Children or his
12 designee.

13 (4) The commissioner of higher education or his designee.

14 (5) The commissioner of the Louisiana Workforce Commission or his designee.

15 (6) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services or
16 his designee.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as part of its duties the task force shall identify:

18 (1) Percentage of student parents comprising postsecondary student populations;

19 (2) Percentage of student parents who are women;

20 (3) Percentage of student mothers who are single parents;

21 (4) Percentage of student mothers who both work and are enrolled at an institution
22 of higher education and average hours worked per week;

23 (5) Current federal, state, and regional resources/efforts available to support student
24 mothers enrolled in postsecondary institutions, including campus, agency and community
25 resources or programming; and

26 (6) Resource and programming gaps to address and achieve the goals.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be staffed by the Senate
28 Committee on Education.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit the
30 names of designees to the task force to the secretary of the Senate no later than August 1,

1 2024.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than September 15, 2024, the chairman
3 of the task force shall convene the first meeting. At the first meeting, the members may elect
4 a vice chairman and other officers as the task force may deem appropriate.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a
6 quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the
7 affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve
9 without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be
10 individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on the date of the
12 submission of its report or March 1, 2025, whichever occurs first.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
14 commissioner of higher education, the commissioner of the Louisiana Workforce
15 Commission, and the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family
16 Services.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Frances Aucoin.

SR 136 Original

DIGEST
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Barrow

Creates the Task Force on Education Participation of Student Mothers to study ways to increase educational participation and opportunities designed to support mothers in joining, rejoining, or advancing in the workforce and to propose recommendations.