

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 172

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Select Committee on Women and Children of the Senate to study a parent's right to equal custodial periods with their child.

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of a child to have frequent and continuing contact with both parents; and

WHEREAS, both parents should have equal custodial periods with their children if it is feasible; and

WHEREAS, developing, establishing, and implementing programs designed to provide healthy and equal custodial periods for both parents would be in the best interest of the child; and

WHEREAS, custodial time with a child has been used as an opportunity for a parent to harass or alienate the other parent, or interfere with an implementation of custody or visitation court order; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 267 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature would have provided for the traumatic child abuser program with the goal of reunification of a child with the parent who has been alienated and address the child's trauma from the alienation; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 267 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature would have provided terms, conditions, and procedures for implementation of the program; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 267 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature would have provided with respect to attendance and participation in the program relative to child custody proceedings.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Select Committee on Women and Children of the Senate to study a parent's right to equal custodial periods with their child, which shall include the proposed provisions of Senate Bill No. 267 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall invite the following persons to appear before the committee to provide testimony relative to the study:

- (1) A representative from Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services.
- (2) A representative from Louisiana Children's Cabinet.
- (3) A representative from Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocates.
- (4) A representative from Louisiana Fathers On A Mission.
- (5) A representative from Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers.
- (6) A representative from Louisiana Juvenile and Family Court Judges Association.
- (7) A representative from Louisiana District Attorney's Association.
- (8) A representative from Louisiana District Judges Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall report its findings and make recommendations to the Senate Committee on Judiciary A and the president of the Senate no later than March 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Women and Children.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE