

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 492

BY REPRESENTATIVE SPELL

DWI: Creates the Governor's Task Force on Impaired Driving

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part IV-A of Chapter 2 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be  
3 comprised of R.S. 49:219.1.1 through 219.1.4, relative to the Governor's Task Force  
4 on Impaired Driving; to create the Governor's Task Force on Impaired Driving; to  
5 provide for the policy and purpose; to provide for membership; to provide for  
6 powers, duties, and procedures; to provide for assistance and cooperation of other  
7 agencies relative to the task force; to provide for use of facilities relative to the task  
8 force; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. Part IV-A of Chapter 2 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of  
11 1950, comprised of R.S. 49:219.1.1 through 219.1.4, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 PART IV-A. GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON IMPAIRED DRIVING

13 §219.1.1. Policy and purpose

14 A. It is the policy of this state to take every responsible action, explore all  
15 opportunities, invite meaningful contributions, and utilize all available resources to  
16 reduce impaired driving involving alcohol, drugs, or a combination of alcohol and  
17 drugs, and to mitigate the resulting loss of life, serious injury, and harm to  
18 individuals, families, and communities.

19 B. In view of the policy of this state, it is the purpose of this Part to establish  
20 the Governor's Task Force on Impaired Driving as a coordinated, multi disciplinary

1 body positioned to motivate, advise, and coordinate the efforts of state, parish, and  
2 local agencies, organizations, and stakeholders in addressing impaired driving  
3 through data-driven analysis, effective countermeasures, and collaborative strategies  
4 to improve public safety.

5 §219.1.2. Governor's Task Force on Impaired Driving; establishment; membership;  
6 selection; terms; compensation; organization; domicile; procedure

7 A. The Governor's Task Force on Impaired Driving is established as a body  
8 corporate to operate within the office of the governor.

9 B.(1) The task force shall be composed of twenty-one members as follows:

10 (a) The attorney general or his designee.

11 (b) One member of the House of Representatives designated by the speaker  
12 of the House of Representatives.

13 (c) One member of the Senate designated by the president of the Senate.

14 (d) The commissioner of the office of alcohol and tobacco control or his  
15 designee.

16 (e) The commissioner of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections,  
17 office of motor vehicles, or his designee.

18 (f) The executive director of the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission.

19 (g) The assistant secretary of the office of behavioral health of the Louisiana  
20 Department of Health or his designee.

21 (h) A representative of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections,  
22 office of state police, designated by the superintendent of the office of state police.

23 (i) The director of the office of drug policy within the office of the governor.

24 (j) A representative of the Louisiana State Police Crime Laboratory  
25 designated by the commander of the Louisiana State Police Crime Laboratory.

26 (k) The secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development or  
27 his designee.

28 (l) The commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Insurance or his  
29 designee.

1           (m) A representative of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association  
2           designated by the executive director of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association.

3           (n) A representative of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association designated by the  
4           executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.

5           (o) A representative of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police  
6           designated by the president of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police.

7           (p) A representative of Mothers Against Drunk Driving designated by the  
8           highest-ranking staff member of the Louisiana State Office of Mothers Against  
9           Drunk Driving.

10          (q) A representative of the Louisiana Restaurant Association designated by  
11          the president of the Louisiana Restaurant Association.

12          (r) The director of the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court  
13          Office or his designee with expertise in administration of court cases involving  
14          driving while impaired and controlled dangerous substances.

15          (s) Three at-large members appointed by the governor, at least one who shall  
16          be either a victim or family member of a victim of impaired driving.

17          C.(1) The task force shall be domiciled in the city of Baton Rouge in East  
18          Baton Rouge Parish.

19          (2) The task force shall establish its own rules of procedure.

20          (3) Each member shall serve a term concurrent with that of the appointing  
21          governor. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

22          (4) The members of the task force shall elect the executive director of the  
23          Louisiana Highway Safety Commission who shall serve as chairman of the task force  
24          and may elect other officers as deemed necessary.

25          (5) The task force shall meet at least four times per calendar year and at the  
26          call of the chairman.

27          (6) Official action of the task force shall require the affirmative approval of  
28          not less than a majority of those present. A quorum is required to conduct a meeting.

29          A quorum shall be a majority of the total membership of the board.

1           (7) Each task force member who it authorized to appoint a designee to serve  
2           in his stead pursuant to Paragraph (B)(1) of this Section shall provide written notice  
3           of such designation to the chairman of the task force. Such written notice shall name  
4           the individual who shall be the official designee until the member revokes such  
5           designation. No task force member shall be represented in a meeting other than by  
6           the official designee.

7           (8) Members shall serve without salary or per diem, but shall be reimbursed  
8           for travel, lodging, and related expenses occasioned by attendance on the business  
9           of the board in the same manner as provided for state employees.

10          (9) Members shall not receive additional compensation or a per diem from  
11          the office of the governor for serving on the task force.

12          (10) A task force member who is an employee or an elected public official  
13          of the state or a political subdivision may seek reimbursement of travel expenses  
14          from his employing government agency or elective office in accordance with state  
15          travel guidelines issued by the division of administration.

16          (11) A task force member who is also a member of the Louisiana Legislature  
17          may, as appropriate, seek a per diem from the House of Representatives or Senate  
18          for his attendance.

19          D. The office of drug policy within the office of the governor and the  
20          Louisiana Highway Safety Commission shall provide staff, facilities, and resources  
21          for the task force.

22          §219.1.3. Powers, duties, and functions; staffing; funding

23                 A. The task force shall do all of the following:

24                         (1) Address the high incidence of driving while impaired by alcohol, drugs,  
25                         or a combination of alcohol or drugs, including data collection and analysis related  
26                         to impaired driving arrest, prosecution, and conviction rates, the prevalence of  
27                         drivers refusing to submit to chemical testing as directed by law enforcement, and  
28                         strategies to reduce such occurrences.

1           (2) Identify and implement effective impaired driving countermeasures,  
2           including substance use assessment and treatment, electronic monitoring, impaired  
3           driving offender monitoring, ignition interlock devices, sanctions, and other  
4           evidence-based strategies to reduce impaired driving.

5           (3) Analyze data trends related to alcohol-involved, drug-involved, and  
6           polysubstance-involved fatal or serious injury motor vehicle crashes.

7           (4) Solicit input and recommendations from agencies, departments,  
8           commissions, boards, or offices involved in impaired driving enforcement,  
9           prevention, adjudication, and countermeasures, including law enforcement agencies  
10          at the state, parish, and local levels to support coordinated implementation efforts.

11          (5) Conduct regular analysis and assessment of Louisiana's impaired driving  
12          statutes and recommend changes as needed to improve effectiveness.

13          (6) Evaluate changes in the methods or priorities of the allocation of funds  
14          to state and local agencies.

15          (7) Align priorities to support the Louisiana Statewide Impaired Driving Plan  
16          as updated annually by the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission and the Strategic  
17          Highway Safety Plan.

18          (8) Act in an advisory capacity to the governor, office of drug policy within  
19          the office of the governor, the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, the office of  
20          alcohol and tobacco control, and the office of behavioral health of the Louisiana  
21          Department of Health.

22          (9) Assess the roles and interaction of federal, state, and local partners  
23          involved in impaired driving enforcement and adjudication, including law  
24          enforcement agencies and related operations, and develop recommendations to  
25          improve the effectiveness of coordinated and multi-jurisdictional efforts to reduce  
26          impaired driving incidents and fatalities throughout the state.

27          (10) Provide an annual report to the governor by February first of each year  
28          regarding the task force's findings, activities, and recommendations and provide  
29          additional reports as needed or requested by the governor.

1           (11) Develop long or short range plans, or both, or strategies that prioritize  
2           areas of need or otherwise organize the use of resources.

3           (12) Seek assistance or support from any state agency or private sector entity  
4           that may be helpful in preventing, reducing, or mitigating impaired driving involving  
5           alcohol, drugs, or a combination of alcohol and drugs.

6           (13) Adopt and promulgate rules as may be necessary to implement the  
7           provisions of this Part.

8           B. Staff support shall be provided by the executive office of the governor  
9           and may be provided by the agencies of the executive department of the government  
10          as directed by the governor.

11          C. The board shall be funded by appropriation of the legislature.

12          §219.1.4. Assistance and cooperation of other agencies; boards; use of facilities

13          All state agencies, boards, commissions, departments, and political  
14          subdivisions shall assist the task force in its work by providing requested  
15          information, reports, research, aid, services, and other support, without imposing any  
16          cost or charge to the office of the governor. However, such assistance shall be  
17          subject to the funding constraints of the respective entity. The facilities of the state  
18          library and Louisiana State University shall be available for use by the task force.

19          The attorney general shall assist the task force and provide written opinions on any  
20          subject requested by the legislative fiscal officer.

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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)]

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HB 492 Original

2026 Regular Session

Spell

**Abstract:** Creates the Governor's Task Force on Impaired Driving.

Proposed law creates the Governor's Task Force on Impaired Driving.

Proposed law provides for the policy and purpose of the task force.

Proposed law provides for the establishment, membership, organization, domicile, staffing responsibilities, procedures, powers, duties, functions, and funding of the task force.

Proposed law provides for the assistance and cooperation of other agencies with the task force in its work as well as the availability of certain facilities for use by the task force.

Proposed law requires the attorney general to assist the task force and provide written opinions on any subject requested by the legislative fiscal officer.

(Adds R.S. 49:219.1.1-219.1.4)