

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-three 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) A representative from the American Automobile Association, specializing
16 in roadside assistance and impaired driving prevention.

17 (t) Four at-large members appointed by the governor, at least one who shall
18 be either a victim or family member of a victim of impaired driving.

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

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

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

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

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

1 (6) Official action of the task force shall require the affirmative approval of
2 not less than a majority of those present. A quorum is required to conduct a meeting.
3 A quorum shall be a majority of the total membership of the board.

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 §219.1.3. Powers, duties, and functions; staffing; funding

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

27 (1) Address the high incidence of driving while impaired by alcohol, drugs,
28 or a combination of alcohol or drugs, including data collection and analysis related
29 to impaired driving arrest, prosecution, and conviction rates, the prevalence of

1 drivers refusing to submit to chemical testing as directed by law enforcement, and
2 strategies to reduce such occurrences.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 B. Staff support shall be provided by the executive office of the governor
12 and may be provided by the agencies of the executive department of the government
13 as directed by the governor.

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

15 §219.1.4. Assistance and cooperation of other agencies; boards; use of facilities

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

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

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)]

HB 492 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Spell

Abstract: Creates the Governor's Task Force on Impaired Driving to reduce impaired driving incidents and related fatalities.

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)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to the original bill:

1. Add a representative from the American Automobile Association to the membership of the task force.
2. Add an additional at-large representative appointed by the governor.