

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 242

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREIBERG

COMMENDATIONS: Commends the YMCA on the occasion of its one hundred seventy-fifth anniversary

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the YMCA on the occasion of its one hundred seventy-fifth anniversary and
3 to express appreciation to its staff and volunteers for their efforts to strengthen
4 communities and promote well-being and connection.

5 WHEREAS, the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) marks its one hundred
6 seventy-fifth anniversary in 2026; it was founded in the United States by Thomas Valentine
7 Sullivan in Boston on December 29, 1851, with a mission to put Christian principles into
8 practice by building a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all; and

9 WHEREAS, the YMCA continually adapts to meet the evolving needs of American
10 communities, which strengthens society by bringing people together, fostering relationships,
11 and creating a sense of belonging; and

12 WHEREAS, the legacy of YMCA includes providing safe housing during the
13 Industrial Revolution, pioneering the first night school and English as a Second Language
14 classes, inventing basketball, and delivering the first group swim lessons; and

15 WHEREAS, the YMCA established the Youth and Government Program, which is
16 distinguished as the birthplace of Father's Day, and has grown into the nation's leading
17 nonprofit provider of child care and after-school programs to support working families; and

18 WHEREAS, today, nearly two thousand six hundred YMCAs serve more than ten
19 thousand communities and have more than three hundred thousand staff and three hundred
20 fifty thousand volunteers who deliver essential programs to over seventeen million people
21 annually; and

1 WHEREAS, the YMCAs of Louisiana foster a commitment to strengthening
2 communities by connecting people to their potential, purpose, and each other; and

3 WHEREAS, the YMCA of the Capital Area was founded in 1917 in Baton Rouge,
4 Louisiana, and has served as a cornerstone of the community for more than a century by
5 advancing youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility; and

6 WHEREAS, the YMCA of the Capital Area engages dedicated staff and volunteers
7 across seven branches and delivers essential programs and services that strengthen
8 individuals, families, and communities throughout the Capital Area; and

9 WHEREAS, the YMCA is a leader in water safety and swim lessons, child care,
10 youth sports, meal programs, and health and wellness initiatives, and is the largest provider
11 of fitness programs for older adults; and

12 WHEREAS, the YMCA creates welcoming spaces for people of all ages,
13 backgrounds, and abilities, and the organization is deserving of recognition for its
14 outstanding contributions to the state.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
16 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the YMCA on the occasion of its one
17 hundred seventy-fifth anniversary; does hereby recognize the role of the YMCA in
18 responding to community needs, fostering relationships, and building a sense of belonging;
19 does hereby commend the staff and volunteers who create connected communities and
20 advance the YMCA's mission; and does hereby encourage continued support for the efforts
21 of the YMCA to promote health, wellness, nutrition, and social interaction and to create
22 spaces that help people build relationships and thrive together.

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)]

HR 242 Original

2026 Regular Session

Freiberg

Commends the YMCA on the occasion of its 175th anniversary.