

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 512 (SB 435)

2026 Regular Session

Myers

New law creates the Louisiana Commission on Fatherhood Engagement within the office of the governor as a continuation of the Task Force on Fatherhood Engagement initially created by SCR No. 9 of the 2025 R.S.

New law requires the director of early childhood systems in the office of the governor to call the first meeting of the commission and that the commission elect a chairperson from the commission membership in every even-numbered year.

New law provides that commission duties include:

- (1) Implementing the recommendations made by the Task Force on Fatherhood Engagement and all ensuing recommendations developed and approved by the commission pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9 of the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature.
- (2) Raising awareness of the importance of fathers' engagement in the lives of their children, resources and support available to Louisiana fathers, and the challenges and barriers facing Louisiana fathers.
- (3) Identifying resources available to fund fatherhood-related programs and assist in the creation or expansion of initiatives that do the following:
 - (a) Promote responsible fatherhood.
 - (b) Build the parenting and co-parenting skills of fathers.
 - (c) Provide employment-related services for low-income fathers.
 - (d) Provide services to fathers who are incarcerated or have been recently released from incarceration to allow them to maintain or reestablish their relationships with their families.
 - (e) Reconcile fathers with their families.
 - (f) Provide support for effective fatherhood programming across state agencies.
 - (g) Improve data collection and usage on fathers and fatherhood engagement across agencies.
 - (h) Improve support for fathers during the perinatal period.
 - (i) Assist fathers with minor children in addressing barriers to accessing and maintaining stable housing.
 - (j) Improve policies and practices to ensure fair and equal opportunities for fathers in child custody, visitation, and family court proceedings.
 - (k) Increase public awareness of the critical role fathers play.
- (4) Organizing a state summit on fatherhood at least once every four years.
- (5) Reporting annually on the commission's expectations for the outcomes of fatherhood-related programs and initiatives and used for conducting annual measures of those outcomes.
- (6) Submitting a comprehensive annual report with a funding request for fatherhood programs.

New law terminates January 1, 2030.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 46:261)