

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 122

BY SENATOR CARTER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education to establish a task force to study and make recommendations regarding student transportation and school bus passenger safety.

WHEREAS, thousands of Louisiana public and private school students ride a bus every school day; and

WHEREAS, it is of utmost importance that these students be transported to and from school in the safest manner available; and

WHEREAS, technology impacting school bus passenger safety is constantly changing and improving; and

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHSTA) continually conducts investigations and studies on school transportation safety and has recently begun to conduct a comprehensive review of its school transportation safety recommendations; and

WHEREAS, NHSTA updated its policies in 2015 to recommend "that every child on every school bus should have a three-point seat belt"; and

WHEREAS, a thorough review of student transportation and school bus passenger safety should be conducted in light of the NHSTA recommendations and with full knowledge of Louisiana data, policies, and laws.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to establish a task force to study and make recommendations regarding student transportation and school bus passenger safety.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be comprised as follows:

(1) Two members appointed by the state superintendent of education.

(2) Three members appointed by the Louisiana Association of School Transportation Officials.

(3) Two members appointed by the Louisiana School Bus Operators Association.

(4) One member appointed by the Louisiana School Boards Association.

(5) One member appointed by the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.

(6) One member appointed by the Louisiana Parent Teacher Association.

(7) One member appointed by the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission.

(8) One member appointed by the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

(9) One member appointed by the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools.

(10) One member appointed by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education from the membership of the board's Nonpublic School Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National School Transportation Association shall be requested to appoint a member to represent private student transportation service providers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the American School Bus Council shall be requested to appoint a member to represent school bus manufacturers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members shall serve without compensation other than what the appointing organization or agency may provide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate and House committees on education not later than January 31, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state superintendent of education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE