

Regular Session, 2000

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 85

BY REPRESENTATIVE GLOVER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create and provide with respect to a task force to study and make recommendations regarding the safe relinquishment of newborns.

WHEREAS, Act No. 109 of the First Extraordinary Session of 2000 providing a safe haven for the relinquishment of newborns was signed by Governor Foster and became law on April 17, 2000; and

WHEREAS, the ultimate purpose of the law is to protect Louisiana's children; and

WHEREAS, the law requires the Louisiana Department of Social Services to submit a written report evaluating the program to this legislature, and the citizens of Louisiana will be best served by broad-based participation in the crafting of any revisions suggested for this program; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Social Services, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, the Louisiana Law Institute, the Senate and House Committees on Health and Welfare, and various other children's advocacy and health care groups have expressed interest in promoting the goals of this bill by ensuring proper methods are used in its implementation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create a task force to be comprised of two representatives of the Louisiana Department of Social Services, two representatives of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, two representatives of the Louisiana Law Institute, two members from the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare

appointed by the president of the Senate, two members from the House Committee on Health and Welfare appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, the executive director of the Louisiana Maternal and Child Health Coalition, a representative from the Louisiana Hospital Association, a representative from the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, and the regional children's program director for the Shreveport Mental Health Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall study and make recommendations regarding issues relative to the safe relinquishment of newborns, including proper methods for implementation of Act No. 109 of the First Extraordinary Session of 2000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall hold its organizational meeting within ninety days after the adoption of this Resolution at the call of one of the members of the task force appointed from the House Committee on Health and Welfare.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall elect a chairperson and a vice chairperson at its organizational meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for the purposes of this Resolution task force members shall serve without compensation, except that members of the legislature serving on the task force shall receive the same per diem and mileage provided for attendance of committee meetings by the rules of the respective house.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, for the purposes of conducting the study herein contemplated, may request and use such counsel, assistance, personnel, facilities, and advice as may be obtained from any and all public and private sources and that the task force shall be staffed by the staff of the Louisiana Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this task force will submit written recommendations regarding the law to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Finance by February 23, 2001, for consideration in the 2001 Regular Session.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE