

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 112

BY SENATOR LUNEAU

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create and provide for the Pinecrest Workplace Violence and Employee Injury Task Force to study the problems relative to workplace violence and employee injury at Pinecrest Supports and Services Center and to recommend any action or legislation that the task force deems necessary and appropriate.

WHEREAS, the Pinecrest Supports and Services Center in Pineville, Louisiana, is a medical facility operated within the Louisiana Department of Health whose mission is to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to reach treatment goals and to return to more integrated community living settings; Pinecrest Supports and Services Center specializes in the treatment of people with comorbid intellectual and developmental disabilities and complex medical, behavioral, and psychiatric support needs; and

WHEREAS, from February 2016 through February 2017, the staff of Pinecrest Supports and Services Center reported five hundred twenty-four incidents of employee injuries, including one hundred and ninety-six staff members being punched, sixty-five staff members scratched, and fifty-seven percent of the assaults required the injured employees to seek medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana incidents' rate of occupational injuries and illnesses in hospitals was approximately 5.2 injuries for every ten thousand workers and Louisiana's private industry rate of occupational injuries was approximately 4.4 injuries for every ten thousand workers during the year 2016; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, eighteen Louisiana workers were victims of workplace violence that resulted in fatal injuries; and

WHEREAS, workplace violence was the second most reported source of fatal injuries in the workplace in the year 2016; and

WHEREAS, occupational injuries, due to violent and nonviolent events, results in an undue economic burden on employees, employers, and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, it is urgent that the state of Louisiana take action to end workplace violence at Pinecrest Supports and Services Center and make efforts to control hazardous conditions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Pinecrest Workplace Violence and Employee Injury Task Force to study the problems relative to workplace violence and employee injury at Pinecrest Supports and Services Center and to recommend any action or legislation that the task force deems necessary and appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force created herein shall consist of the following six members:

(1) The chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, or another member of the committee designated by the chair.

(2) The chair of the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, or another member of the committee designated by the chair.

(3) The secretary of the Department of Health, or his designee.

(4) The secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, or his designee.

(5) The attorney general, or his designee.

(6) The executive director of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Council Seventeen, or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in conducting the study, the task force shall study current law, regulations, policies, and efforts at Pinecrest Supports and Services Center to prevent workplace violence and employee injury.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of the constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the total membership shall constitute a quorum of the task force, and any official action taken by the task force shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may conduct such meetings at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall make a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, to the legislature no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2019 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on March 8, 2019.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES