

LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON CIVIC EDUCATION

R.S. 24:971 - 974

§971. Louisiana Commission on Civic Education; creation; purpose

A. The Louisiana Commission on Civic Education, hereinafter referred to as "commission," is hereby established.

B. The purposes of the commission shall include the following:

(1) To educate citizens in the community as well as students in schools on the importance of citizen involvement in a representative democracy.

(2) To promote communication and collaboration among organizations in the state that conduct civic education programs.

§972. Membership; meetings; compensation; staff

A. The commission shall consist of the following members:

(1) The governor, or his designee.

(2) The lieutenant governor, or his designee.

(3) The state attorney general, or his designee.

(4) The secretary of state, or his designee.

(5) The president of the Senate, or his designee.

(6) The speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee.

(7) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, or his designee.

(8) The chairman of the House Committee on Education, or his designee.

(9) The state superintendent of education, or his designee.

(10) The president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, or his designee.

(11) One state coordinator of the Louisiana Legislators Back to School Program, to represent the Senate program, appointed by the president of the Senate.

(12) One state coordinator of the Louisiana Legislators Back to School Program, to represent the House of Representatives program, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

(13) The state coordinator of Project Citizen.

(14) The executive director of the Public Affairs Research Council.

(15) The executive director of the Council for a Better Louisiana.

(16) One member to represent Louisiana Public Broadcasting, appointed by the executive director of the Louisiana Public Broadcasting Corporation.

(17) One member to represent the League of Women Voters, appointed by the League of Women Voters of Louisiana.

(18) One member to represent the Louisiana Press Association and one member to represent the Louisiana Association of Broadcasters, appointed by the president of each association.

(19) One member to represent the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education, appointed by the president of its board of directors.

(20) One member to represent the Louisiana Association of Non-Profit Organizations, appointed by the chairman of the Louisiana Association of Non-Profit Organizations.

(21) One member to represent the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, appointed by the president of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

(22) The chairman of the Volunteer Louisiana Commission, or his designee.

(23) Any additional member who has expertise in civic education or civic involvement, as may be designated by three-fourths of the commission members present and voting. Such member shall serve at the pleasure of the commission.

B. The members of the commission shall elect a chairman, vice chairman, and such other officers as it shall determine.

C. A member of the commission shall serve without compensation for his services, but may receive a per diem and be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary travel and other expenses actually incurred on business of the commission provided such reimbursement is authorized and paid by the representative agency or organization.

D. The commission shall hold at least two meetings each year and may hold other meetings upon the call of the chairman or majority of the members. The initial meeting of the commission shall be called by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives, acting jointly.

E. Staff and facilities needed by the commission to accomplish its purposes shall be provided by the legislature from its existing resources.

Added by Acts 2004, No. 596, §1, eff. July 5, 2004; Acts 2005, No. 107, §1, eff. June, 21, 2005; Acts 2012, No. 553, §1, eff. August 1, 2012.

§973. Powers and functions

A. The commission shall:

(1) Develop and coordinate outreach programs in collaboration with member organizations, agencies, and schools to educate citizens on the importance of understanding the following:

(a) That representative democracy is a process dependent on reasoned debate, good faith negotiation, and compromise.

(b) That individual involvement is a critical factor in community success.

(c) That consideration and respect of others must be shown when deliberating, negotiating, and advocating positions on public concerns.

(2) Identify civic education projects in Louisiana and provide technical assistance as may be needed to such programs.

(3) Build a network of civic education professionals to share information and strengthen partnerships.

(4) Develop, in consultation with entities having representatives on the commission and others as determined by the commission, a clearinghouse which shall be available on the Internet and which shall include but not be limited to the following:

(a) A database of civic education resources, lesson plans, and other programs of best practices in civic education.

(b) A bulletin board to promote discussion on and exchange of ideas relative to civic education.

(c) An events calendar.

(d) Links to civic education research.

(5) Value and support successful civic education programs in the state and encourage expansion of such efforts.

(6) Oversee the administrative needs and the implementation of the identified goals and objectives of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council.

(7) Prepare and provide an annual report of activities to the governor and to the legislature.

B. The commission may establish such committees as it deems necessary to carry out its functions.

Added by Acts 2004, No. 596, §1, eff. July 5, 2004; Acts 2005, No. 107, §1, eff. June 21, 2005; Acts 2007, No. 118, §1, eff. July 1, 2007.

§973.1. Legislative Youth Advisory Council; purpose, membership, duties, administration, report, student privacy

A. Purpose. The Legislative Youth Advisory Council, hereinafter referred to as "council," is hereby established to examine and facilitate communication between youth and the legislature regarding issues of importance to youth, including but not limited to education, employment, strategies to increase youth participation in local and state government, safe environments for youth, substance abuse, underage drinking, emotional and physical health, poverty, litter and environmental control, driver's licenses, and youth access to state and local services.

B. Membership. (1) The council shall consist of the following youth members:

(a)(i) Members appointed to represent youth within a congressional district. Fourteen youth members shall be appointed by the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education, two appointed from each congressional district and the remaining members from the state at large in a manner which reflects the diversity of the state to the greatest extent practicable pursuant to an application process as provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection. Youth members shall possess the qualifications as provided in Subsection C of this Section.

(ii) The commission shall select members to the council pursuant to this Subparagraph from among youths recommended by any school administrator, teacher, or representative of an approved home study program or a general education development skills program.

(iii) In the event two qualified applicants cannot be found to represent a particular congressional district, in lieu of directly filling any such vacancy, the commission may select a qualified applicant from among youths nominated by a school club or community organization, as provided in Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, to serve as an at-large member in order to ensure full membership on the council.

(b)(i) Members nominated by certain school clubs and community organizations. Up to seven youths may serve as members nominated by a school-sponsored club or community organization which has a mission that supports the ideals of character, leadership, and service; encourages mutual respect and instills civic responsibility; builds courage and confidence among young people through community participation; or promotes the principles of representative democracy, in an effort to build stronger communities by increasing civic engagement among youth.

(ii) If the number of clubs or organizations eligible for and making a request to participate exceeds seven, the members shall be selected in the same manner and pursuant to the application process, specified in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, as provided for the selection of other members by the commission.

(iii) Any club or organization that meets the qualifications of this Subparagraph may submit one name to the commission, along with a letter of recommendation from an adult representative of

the club or organization from which the youth is nominated and a letter of recommendation from a school administrator, teacher, or representative of an approved home study program or general education development skills program.

(2) The application form and process for membership on the council shall be developed and approved by the commission.

(3) The following persons shall serve as advisory, nonvoting members of the council:

(a) A member of the Senate, appointed by the president.

(b) A member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker.

(c) The chairman of the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education.

(d) The state superintendent of education, or his designee.

(e) Up to seven persons, as may be designated by the commission, who have completed high school and are nineteen years of age or younger.

(f) A representative of the Council of Student Body Presidents.

C. Qualifications of youth members. Each member of the council shall:

(1) Be a resident of Louisiana.

(2) Be a student aged fourteen through nineteen.

(3) Be enrolled and attending a Louisiana high school in the ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade; participating in a home study program approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; or participating in a general education development skills program as defined by policy adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

D. Terms of office. Members shall serve a term of one year and may be reappointed for a subsequent term, provided that they are eligible at the time of reappointment. However, no member of the council shall serve more than two consecutive terms.

E. Duties. The council shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

(1) To identify the concerns and needs of youth, and to advise and make recommendations to members of the legislature on proposed or pending legislation and on policy matters related to youth.

(2) To collect, analyze, and provide information to the Senate and House committees on education and any other legislative committees, commissions, and task forces on issues related to youth.

(3) To participate in an annual seminar prior to the school year for council members regarding leadership, government, and the legislature.

(4) To hold at least one public hearing each year for the purpose of receiving youth comment on issues of importance to youth and such other meetings at the call of the council chair.

(5) To submit an annual report by May thirtieth of each year of its activities, including any recommendations for proposed legislation, to the governor, the Senate and House committees on education, and the commission.

F. Council administration. (1)(a) There shall be a legislative chair and a youth chair of the council; however, the chairman of the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education shall call the first meeting of the council and shall serve as co-chair during the first year. Thereafter, the responsibility for presiding as a co-chair of the council shall rotate annually between the two advisory members from the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(b) Youth officers shall be elected at the first meeting of each calendar year, including a

president who shall serve as co-chair, and a vice president, secretary, communications officer, and historian. All officers shall be elected by the voting members of the council and shall serve for a term of one year. Any vacancy in an office shall be filled with an election by the voting members of the council for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(2) Members of the council shall serve without compensation, except legislative advisory members shall receive mileage and per diem at the rate established by the legislature when attending meetings of the council.

(3) Meetings of the council shall be open to the public.

(4) The council shall set priorities and may establish any committees as may be necessary in connection with the exercise of its functions.

(5) Council members shall review and consider the procedures and rules used by the legislature as such may be appropriate for use as models for the council.

(6) The legislative staff of the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education shall provide staff assistance to the council.

G. Confidentiality. Other than the name of an applicant, information contained in the application form of any person under the age of eighteen applying for membership on the council shall be confidential and shall not be subject to disclosure. However, the commission may use the information on application forms to develop summary or statistical data which contains no personally identifiable information. The summary or statistical data containing no personally identifiable information shall be subject to disclosure in the manner provided for public records in R.S. 44:1 et seq.

Added by Acts 2007, No. 118, §1, eff. July 1, 2007; Acts 2008, No. 765, §1, eff. July 6, 2008; Acts 2010, No. 670, §1, eff. June 29, 2010; Acts 2012, No. 803, §5, eff. August 1, 2012.

§974. Funding

To achieve the purposes of this Chapter, the commission may, on its own behalf or on behalf of the council, seek, accept, and expend monies from any source, including donations, state appropriations, and federal grants and may seek, accept, and use services from individuals, corporations, and governmental entities.