

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 384

BY REPRESENTATIVE MILLER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana State University School of Health Sciences to conduct certain studies to identify associations between environmental risk factors and maternal health outcomes and to report its findings by July 1, 2027.

WHEREAS, women and the unborn are exquisitely sensitive to chemical toxicants, therefore, a precautionary approach is needed; and

WHEREAS, the absence of health effects does not mean no health effects; and

WHEREAS, limitations of health surveillance include out-migration, disease latency, health reporting gaps, data privacy rules, small populations, and ecological fallacies in terms of using parish level data to infer no problem at the local level, and complex exposures; and

WHEREAS, there are gaps in our knowledge of additive, synergistic, and cumulative effects of complex exposures to chemical mixtures through the different life phases; and

WHEREAS, the gaps in environmental monitoring in communities adjacent to industrial and agricultural areas limit our ability to connect the dots between exposure and health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, regulatory standards, risk assessments, and oversight tend to focus on one chemical, exposure route, or source at a time; and

WHEREAS, there has been only one peer reviewed study on the association between reproductive outcomes and environmental hazards in Louisiana as opposed to seventy related studies in Texas; and

WHEREAS, regulators often base facility permit decisions on cancer, which can take decades to manifest rather than effects like adverse respiratory, cardiovascular, or reproductive events; and

WHEREAS, life expectancy, reproductive, developmental, renal, immune, neurological, and other health outcomes need to be considered; and

WHEREAS, given the sensitivities of women and the unborn, there is a need to conduct real-time environmental monitoring in high-risk areas, expand health surveillance in emergency rooms, urgent care facilities, and OB-GYN clinics, as well as nurseries, daycares, and primary schools, and conduct a comprehensive study of associations between environmental risk factors and reproductive, developmental, and respiratory health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, such data and studies could inform future surveillance efforts, regulatory permitting practices, land use policies, and public health interventions to ultimately reduce health disparities and mitigate impacts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana State University School of Health Sciences to conduct studies to better identify high-risk areas, health disparities, contributing risk factors, environmental monitoring, and health surveillance gaps, and associations between environmental risk factors and maternal health outcomes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings of the study and recommendations shall be provided to the House and Senate health and welfare committees and the Senate Select Committee on Women and Children in the form of a written report no later than July 1, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one print copy and one electronic copy of any report produced pursuant to this Resolution shall be submitted to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the dean of the Louisiana State University School of Health Sciences.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES