

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 189

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

DRUGS/CONTROLLED: Urges and requests certain state universities to pursue opportunities for research on the safety and clinical efficacy of therapeutic marijuana

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Centers at New Orleans
3 and Shreveport, the Pennington Biomedical Research Center, and the Louisiana State
4 University and Southern University Agricultural Centers to pursue opportunities for
5 basic research, applied research, and clinical trials to evaluate the safety and clinical
6 efficacy of marijuana for therapeutic use.

7 WHEREAS, Act No. 96 of the 2016 Regular Session of the Legislature authorizes
8 access to therapeutic marijuana for patients with specific debilitating conditions including
9 cancer, human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, cachexia
10 or wasting syndrome, seizure disorders, epilepsy, spasticity, Crohn's disease, muscular
11 dystrophy, or multiple sclerosis; and

12 WHEREAS, the populations of patients who have these conditions are particularly
13 vulnerable and include children, persons who are elderly, and others who are in great need
14 of consumer protections and quality health care; and

15 WHEREAS, a pronounced and growing need exists for development of national
16 standards for proper utilization, dosage levels, and other drug protocols for therapeutic
17 marijuana; and

18 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration, referred to hereafter
19 as the "FDA", has indicated that scientifically valid investigations and well-controlled
20 clinical trials which produce evidence-based research are necessary in order for the agency
21 to determine the safety and efficacy of marijuana for medical treatment; and

1 WHEREAS, the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners communicated a
2 similar position in this segment of a report concerning therapeutic marijuana that it issued
3 to the legislative committees on health and welfare in January of 2016: "In order to insure
4 the public health, safety and welfare the Board suggests that therapeutic marijuana... should
5 be subject to the same evidence-based review and regulatory oversight as other medications
6 prescribed by physicians. Indeed, only in this manner will the legislature, the Board,
7 physicians and the public be in a position to evaluate the efficacy of its use in connection
8 with a given disease or condition. To accomplish this task, it is necessary that the potentially
9 therapeutic chemicals in marijuana must be purified and tested in randomized, double-blind,
10 placebo-controlled clinical trials"; and

11 WHEREAS, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration currently
12 authorizes only one marijuana production facility in the nation, but has announced that it
13 intends to expand the number of authorized entities it will register to grow and distribute
14 marijuana for FDA-sanctioned research; and

15 WHEREAS, to date, the National Institutes of Health has awarded substantial grants
16 of funding for research on marijuana and potential medicinal applications of that substance,
17 and has indicated that it plans to continue funding such research efforts; and

18 WHEREAS, in addition to the growth in government-funded research on therapeutic
19 marijuana, opportunities for privately sponsored research on this subject may also become
20 available.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
22 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana State University Health
23 Sciences Centers at New Orleans and Shreveport, the Pennington Biomedical Research
24 Center, and the Louisiana State University and Southern University Agricultural Centers to
25 pursue opportunities for basic research, applied research, and clinical trials to evaluate the
26 safety and clinical efficacy of marijuana for therapeutic use.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each state agency, board, or commission which
28 is involved in production, dispensing, or otherwise regulating marijuana for therapeutic use
29 is hereby urged to collaborate in the efforts to pursue research opportunities called for in this
30 Resolution.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
2 chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans, the
3 chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport, the
4 executive director of the Pennington Biomedical Research Center, the vice president for
5 agriculture and dean of the College of Agriculture of Louisiana State University, and the
6 chancellor-dean of the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 189 Original

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Urges and requests the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Centers at New Orleans and Shreveport, the Pennington Biomedical Research Center, and the Louisiana State University and Southern University Agricultural Centers to pursue opportunities for basic research, applied research, and clinical trials to evaluate the safety and clinical efficacy of marijuana for therapeutic use.