



1 postherpetic neuralgia, a debilitating complication of shingles that causes severe pain that  
2 may interfere with sleep and recreational activities, and can be associated with clinical  
3 depression; and

4 WHEREAS, vaccines have reduced the burden of widespread and often fatal  
5 diseases, enabling individuals to lead longer and healthier lives while reducing healthcare  
6 costs; and

7 WHEREAS, although much attention has been paid to the importance of childhood  
8 vaccinations, there is a general lack of awareness of adult-recommended vaccines, and a  
9 misperception that immunizations are unnecessary for healthy adults; and

10 WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
11 and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend that healthy  
12 adults fifty years and older be vaccinated against shingles to prevent the disease and  
13 shingles-related complications; and

14 WHEREAS, despite the recommendations of CDC officials and other experts that  
15 all healthy adults be vaccinated against shingles, as of 2015 only thirty percent of eligible  
16 adults had received the shingles vaccine; and

17 WHEREAS, the annual economic burden of shingles in American adults is estimated  
18 to be between seven hundred and eighty-two million dollars and five billion dollars; and

19 WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine has stated that one of the six causes of excess  
20 costs in the United States healthcare system is missed prevention opportunities; and

21 WHEREAS, millions of American adults go without routine and recommended  
22 vaccinations because our medical system is not set up to ensure that adults receive regular  
23 preventive healthcare; and

24 WHEREAS, with the designation of July 2018 as "Shingles Awareness and  
25 Improvement Month", residents of Louisiana are encouraged to speak with their healthcare  
26 provider to ensure that they have been properly vaccinated against shingles in accordance  
27 with current CDC and ACIP recommendations.

28 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
29 designate July 2018 as "Shingles Awareness and Improvement Month" in Louisiana to  
30 increase public awareness of the importance of adults receiving vaccines against shingles,

1 and to promote outreach and education efforts concerning adult vaccines, generally.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the  
3 Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

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SCR 57 Original	DIGEST 2018 Regular Session	Mills
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Designates July 2018 as Shingles Awareness and Improvement Month in Louisiana.