

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY REPRESENTATIVE STOKES

VETERANS: Requests a study regarding hyperbaric oxygen therapy for veterans with traumatic brain injuries

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and the Tulane
 3 University School of Medicine, in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of
 4 Veterans Affairs and the Louisiana Department of Health, to study the medical
 5 effectiveness of hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment in treating traumatic brain
 6 injuries and the feasibility of establishing a program that provides hyperbaric oxygen
 7 therapy treatment and recovery services to veterans who have suffered traumatic
 8 brain injuries.

9 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines traumatic brain
 10 injury as a disruption in the normal function of the brain that can be caused by a bump, blow,
 11 or jolt to the head, or penetrating head injury; and

12 WHEREAS, traumatic brain injuries can affect many areas of a person's life
 13 including physical functions, thinking abilities, and behaviors, and those effects sometimes
 14 cause other difficulties such as sleeping problems, depression, and anxiety; and

15 WHEREAS, there is growing evidence that a traumatic brain injury can have
 16 long-term effects on health, including an increased risk of dementia and other neurological
 17 and neurodegenerative disorders; and

18 WHEREAS, while there are many causes of traumatic brain injuries, active duty and
 19 reserve service members are at an increased risk for sustaining a traumatic brain injury
 20 compared to their civilian peers; and

1 WHEREAS, from 2002 to 2010, over five hundred Louisiana service members in
2 Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom were diagnosed with traumatic
3 brain injury-related conditions at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities; and

4 WHEREAS, hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) treatment is a medical treatment
5 that uses greater than ambient pressure oxygen as a drug by fully enclosing a person in a
6 pressure vessel and then adjusting the dose of the drug to treat pathophysiologic processes
7 of disease; and

8 WHEREAS, studies have shown that at the chronic stage of traumatic brain injury,
9 HBOT has been shown to improve behavioral and neurobiological outcomes, and recent
10 clinical trials favor HBOT as a promising and safe therapeutic strategy for severe traumatic
11 brain injury patients.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
13 urge and request the chancellor of Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and
14 the dean of Tulane University School of Medicine, in conjunction with the secretary of the
15 Louisiana Department of Health and the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans
16 Affairs, to study the medical effectiveness of providing hyperbaric oxygen therapy to those
17 veterans suffering from traumatic brain injuries and the feasibility of establishing a program
18 that provides such hyperbaric oxygen treatment and recovery services at no cost to the
19 veteran.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include a determination as to the
21 medical effectiveness of HBOT in veterans with traumatic brain injuries and a determination
22 as to the feasibility of providing hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment and recovery services
23 at no cost to the veteran.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chancellor of Louisiana State University
25 Health Sciences Center and the dean of Tulane University School of Medicine, in
26 conjunction with the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs and the
27 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, shall report their determinations and
28 findings to the Louisiana Legislature no later than February 1, 2020.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the
30 chancellor of Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, the dean of Tulane

- 1 University School of Medicine, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans
 - 2 Affairs, and the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.
-

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)]

HCR 105 Original

2019 Regular Session

Stokes

Requests LSU Health Sciences Center and Tulane University School of Medicine, in conjunction with the La. Dept. of Veterans Affairs and the La. Dept. of Health, to study the medical effectiveness of hyperbaric oxygen therapy and the feasibility of establishing a program that provides hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment and recovery services to veterans who have suffered traumatic brain injuries.