2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 106

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT OWEN

INTERGOV COMPACTS: Requests a study regarding potential costs, benefits, and public health impacts of Louisiana joining the interstate compact known as the Solemn Covenant of the States to Award Prizes for Curing Diseases

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the office of public health of the Louisiana Department of Health, in
3	collaboration with the Louisiana Public Health Institute, to study the potential costs,
4	benefits, and public health impacts of Louisiana joining the interstate compact
5	known as the Solemn Covenant of the States to Award Prizes for Curing Diseases
6	proposed through legislation known commonly as the "Cure Bill" and to report
7	findings of the study to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana.
8	WHEREAS, over the past several decades, advancements in health sciences have led
9	to many innovative treatments for a vast array of health conditions, yet new discoveries of
10	cures for diseases remain very rare; and
11	WHEREAS, several states have recently considered legislation known as the "Cure
12	Bill" which would encourage states to work collaboratively to provide incentives for the
13	discovery and propagation of cures for diseases; and
14	WHEREAS, by enacting the Cure Bill, a state would join an interstate compact
15	known as the Solemn Covenant of the States to Award Prizes for Curing Diseases; and
16	WHEREAS, Ohio became the charter member of this interstate compact in 2019
17	when its legislature enacted the Cure Bill through passage of House Bill No. 166 of the 133
18	Ohio General Assembly; and
19	WHEREAS, in this 2021 Regular Session, the Legislature of Louisiana considered
20	a version of the Cure Bill, House Bill No. 290, which the House Committee on Health and
21	Welfare reported favorably with no opposition pursuant to a May 12, 2021, hearing on the
22	bill; and

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WHEREAS, though the system for awarding prizes for curing diseases proposed in 2 the Cure Bill is highly promising and would have little to no cost impact to the state, it has 3 yet to be tested, as fewer than the minimum number of states necessary to effectuate the 4 compact (six states) have enacted the compact legislation; and

5 WHEREAS, despite the favorable consideration given to House Bill No. 290 of this 6 2021 Regular Session in the bill's committee hearing, the sense of the House of 7 Representatives is that further study of potential costs, benefits, and public health impacts 8 associated with Louisiana participating in the Solemn Covenant of the States to Award 9 Prizes for Curing Diseases is needed in order for the legislature to make a fully informed 10 decision with respect to enacting the Cure Bill in this state.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the 12 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the office of public health of the 13 Louisiana Department of Health, working in collaboration with the Louisiana Public Health 14 Institute, to study the potential costs, benefits, and public health impacts of Louisiana joining 15 the interstate compact known as the Solemn Covenant of the States to Award Prizes for 16 Curing Diseases.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of public health shall submit findings 18 from the study called for in this Resolution in the form of a report to the House of 19 Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana on or before February 1, 2022.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 21 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and the chief executive officer of the

22 Louisiana Public Health Institute.

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 106 Engrossed	2021 Regular Session	Robert Owen
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Urges and requests the office of public health (OPH) of the La. Department of Health, in collaboration with the La. Public Health Institute, to study the potential costs, benefits, and public health impacts of this state joining the interstate compact known as the Solemn Covenant of the States to Award Prizes for Curing Diseases.

Requires OPH to report findings of the study to the La. House of Representatives on or before Feb. 1, 2022.