

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 62

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: Requests the La. Department of Health to develop a proposal for a statewide hospital coordination plan for use in disasters and other emergency situations

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to develop a proposal for a  
3 statewide hospital coordination plan and patient transfer strategy for use in disasters  
4 and other emergency situations and to report the proposal to the House Committee  
5 on Health and Welfare and the House Select Committee on Homeland Security.

6 WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the date on which global health authorities  
7 recognized the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 as a pandemic, the governor of this state,  
8 through Proclamation No. 25 JBE 2020, declared a state of public health emergency in  
9 accordance with the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act, R.S. 29:760 et seq.; and

10 WHEREAS, this state of public health emergency in response to COVID-19 was  
11 routinely renewed and would run continuously for over two years, finally expiring on March  
12 16, 2022; and

13 WHEREAS, throughout these two years, gubernatorial proclamations declaring and  
14 renewing Louisiana's COVID-19 public health emergency set forth a wide variety of  
15 protocols and mandates for the public and private sectors alike which were designed to  
16 respond to and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in this state; however, no such  
17 proclamation encompassed a statewide hospital coordination plan or patient transfer  
18 strategy; and

19 WHEREAS, other states have recognized the critical necessity of having a statewide  
20 hospital coordination plan in place; and

1           WHEREAS, a notable example of such a plan is Colorado's, which that state  
2 implemented pursuant to Executive Order No. D 2021 135; and

3           WHEREAS, administrators of rural hospitals in certain regions of Louisiana have  
4 reported that during the state's first surge of COVID infections in 2020, they were instructed  
5 by health officials to prepare to accept large numbers of COVID patients from other regions;  
6 that they emptied their beds in order to do so; and that no COVID patients were ever  
7 transferred to them; and

8           WHEREAS, many of these same rural hospitals have reported that similar events  
9 transpired during the state's preparation for and response to the hurricanes that impacted our  
10 state in 2020 and 2021, as the hospitals were again instructed by health officials to make bed  
11 capacity available for transferred patients, did so, and received no transferred patients; and

12           WHEREAS, hospitals are an indispensable part of our state's emergency response  
13 infrastructure; and

14           WHEREAS, because the Louisiana Department of Health is the lead agency for our  
15 state's public health and medical services emergency support function during disaster and  
16 emergency periods (known commonly and classified by the state emergency operations plan  
17 as ESF-8), it is appropriate to call upon this agency to lead the development of a statewide  
18 hospital coordination plan and patient transfer strategy.

19           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
20 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health  
21 to develop a proposal for a statewide hospital coordination plan and patient transfer strategy  
22 for use in disasters and other emergency situations.

23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing the proposal called for in this  
24 Resolution, the Louisiana Department of Health shall engage, collaborate with, and obtain  
25 information and guidance from the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency  
26 Preparedness and the Louisiana Emergency Response Network.

27           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall submit  
28 the proposal called for in this Resolution to the House Committee on Health and Welfare,  
29 the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, and the David R. Poynter Legislative  
30 Research Library on or before December 1, 2022.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
2 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the director of the Governor's Office of  
3 Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, and the executive director of the  
4 Louisiana Emergency Response Network.

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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)]

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HR 62 Original

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Urges and requests the La. Department of Health (LDH) to develop a proposal for a statewide hospital coordination plan and patient transfer strategy for use in disasters and other emergency situations. Requires LDH to submit the proposal to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the House Select Committee on Homeland Security on or before Dec. 1, 2022.