

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.

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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Echols

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.