



1           WHEREAS, these unfair practices are a waste of human resources and essentially  
2   sap the strength of society as a whole; and

3           WHEREAS, a former assistant secretary of the Louisiana office of public health  
4   declared structural racism to be deadly to Hispanic and African American communities; and

5           WHEREAS, Louisiana's black residents are disproportionately impacted by chronic  
6   medical conditions, which include but are not limited to high blood pressure and diabetes,  
7   in comparison to the white residents of this state; and

8           WHEREAS, according to the 2020 federal decennial census, an estimated forty  
9   percent of Louisiana's population is racially and ethnically diverse; and

10          WHEREAS, Louisiana's racially and ethnically diverse population is more likely to  
11   be at risk for poor health outcomes due to racism; and

12          WHEREAS, New Orleans Metro News stated that seventy percent of deaths that  
13   resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic were African Americans who represent only thirty-  
14   two percent of the state's population, exacerbating health inequities in this state; and

15          WHEREAS, there is clear and extensive data confirming that racism negatively  
16   impacts the lives of people of color in Louisiana; and

17          WHEREAS, the battle against racism is not just a statewide crisis but a nationwide  
18   emergency; and

19          WHEREAS, the American Medical Association states that racism contributes to  
20   health inequities throughout the United States; and

21          WHEREAS, it has been proven that the social determinants of health, which are  
22   defined as the social and material factors that influence health, including but not limited to  
23   employment, wages, housing, education, health care, public safety, and food access, have  
24   a disproportionate impact on people of ethnically diverse backgrounds; and

25          WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association has expressed that racism is  
26   a driving force of the social determinants of health due to the resulting inequalities in several  
27   matters, including but not limited to housing, education, and employment; and

28          WHEREAS, combating the impacts of racism on public health requires action from  
29   all levels of government and civil society.

1           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
2 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby declare racism a public health crisis and request the  
3 governor to urge state departments to continue reviewing policies and procedures concerning  
4 racial inequality, to identify and eradicate implicit and explicit racial bias, and to develop  
5 policies and procedures that build racial equity.

6           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature  
7 of Louisiana supports the establishment of a working group to expand the understanding of  
8 structural and institutional racism. The working group should explore how racism affects  
9 individual and population health and secure adequate resources to successfully address the  
10 aforementioned concerns.

11           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature  
12 of Louisiana is committed to reviewing all portions of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of  
13 1950 with a racially equitable lens in furtherance of achieving the intent of this Resolution.

14           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
15 governor and the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

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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 202 Original

2022 Regular Session

Newell

Declares racism a public health crisis and requests the governor to urge state departments to continue reviewing policies and procedures concerning racial inequality, to identify and eradicate implicit and explicit racial bias, and to develop policies and procedures that build racial equity.