HLS 23RS-478 ORIGINAL

2023 Regular Session

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 71

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHLEGEL

MENTAL HEALTH: Creates a subcommittee to study mental health issues in this state

A RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare to form
3	a subcommittee to study the mental health crisis plaguing the citizens of Louisiana
4	and the resources available to assist individuals with a mental health diagnosis in this
5	state.
6	WHEREAS, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) stated in its 2021 data
7	report that one hundred seventy-nine thousand adults in the state of Louisiana are battling
8	serious mental illness; and
9	WHEREAS, according to NAMI's 2021 data report, roughly three million three
10	hundred ninety-eight thousand nine hundred ninety people in the state of Louisiana live in
11	a community that lacks a sufficient number of healthcare providers who treat those with
12	mental illnesses; and
13	WHEREAS, according to the Behavioral Health Barometer: Louisiana, Volume 6
14	by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the amount
15	of young adults with mental health challenges, eighteen to twenty-five years of age, has
16	increased in the past ten years; and
17	WHEREAS, according to the East Baton Rouge Parish Health Profile of the
18	Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), an estimated six hundred fifty thousand Louisiana
19	adults and two hundred forty-six thousand Louisiana children are likely to experience a
20	diagnosable mental disorder in their lifetime; and

1	WHEREAS, a 2023 press release by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2	(CDC) reported that adolescents from all racial and ethnic groups have reportedly felt as
3	though they lacked purpose and experienced higher levels of constant unhappiness; and
4	WHEREAS, the CDC's data stated that substance use for adolescents is commonly
5	associated with mental health issues and other factors; and
6	WHEREAS, according to LDH, "The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the
7	challenges facing adolescents' and children's mental health, causing altered experiences at
8	home, school, and during in-person social interactions. The pandemic also highlighted the
9	need for increased access to healthcare and social services as an alarming number of young
10	people struggle with feelings of helplessness, depression, and thoughts of suicide. In
11	response, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child and Adolescent
12	Psychiatry, and the Children's Hospital Association have declared a national state of
13	emergency in child and adolescent mental health."
14	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
15	Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the chairman of the House Committee
16	on Health and Welfare to form a subcommittee to solicit research and make
17	recommendations for proposed legislation and policy changes relative to the mental health
18	crisis in Louisiana.
19	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman of the House Committee on Health
20	and Welfare or his designee shall serve as chairman of the subcommittee at its initial
21	meeting to be held before September 1, 2023.
22	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before February 1, 2024, the subcommittee
23	established by this Resolution shall submit to the House Committee on Health and Welfare
24	and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library a report of its findings and
25	recommendations.
26	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
27	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)]

HR 71 Original

2023 Regular Session

Schlegel

Requests the chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare to form a subcommittee to solicit research and make recommendations for proposed legislation and policy changes relative to the mental health crisis in Louisiana.