

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 88

BY REPRESENTATIVE MOORE

HEALTH/DISEASE CONTROL: Urges and requests the United States Food and Drug Administration to regulate tattoo ink

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the United States Food and Drug Administration to regulate tattoo ink.

3 WHEREAS, approximately one-third of Americans report having one or more
4 tattoos; and

5 WHEREAS, the global tattoo market was valued at one billion eight hundred ninety
6 million dollars in 2022, and the global tattoo removal industry was valued at four hundred
7 eighty seven million dollars in 2019; and

8 WHEREAS, more than two-thirds of Americans report the reason they obtain a tattoo
9 is to honor or remember someone or something; and

10 WHEREAS, approximately one-quarter of Americans report regretting getting one
11 or more of their tattoos; and

12 WHEREAS, nearly one-third of Americans who do not have tattoos say that seeing
13 a tattoo on someone gives them more of a negative impression than positive impression of
14 that person; and

15 WHEREAS, traditionally, the health risks associated with obtaining a tattoo include
16 the short-term risk of bacterial infections and allergic reactions and the long-term risks of
17 contracting a disease due to unsanitary conditions; and

18 WHEREAS, more recently, researchers have begun studying to determine if there
19 is a link between tattoos and skin cancer; and

1 WHEREAS, in 2021, the European Union promulgated rules to regulate certain
2 substances in tattoo ink and permanent make-up that contain carcinogenic precursors and
3 other chemicals that may be harmful to human health; and

4 WHEREAS, researchers at Binghamton University have found evidence to suggest
5 that color additives used in tattoo inks may contain molecules that may convert to known
6 carcinogens by bacteria or when exposed to ultraviolet light; and

7 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration traditionally regulates
8 materials that come in contact with skin such as cosmetics; and

9 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration has the authority to
10 regulate tattoo ink; and

11 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration released nonbinding
12 guidance to assist tattoo ink manufacturers and distributors recognize situations in which
13 tattoo ink may be contaminated with microorganisms; and

14 WHEREAS, despite a potential health risk, the United States Food and Drug
15 Administration has not promulgated any rules or taken any traditional regulatory
16 enforcement action to protect consumers from tattoo ink health complications.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
18 urge and request the United States Food and Drug Administration to regulate color additives
19 used in tattoo ink in order to promote the health and safety of United States citizens.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
21 commissioner of food and drugs of the United States Food and Drug Administration.

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)]

HCR 88 Engrossed

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