

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 282

BY REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

HOSPITALS/PUBLIC: Requests that the Louisiana Department of Health study the feasibility of opening an inpatient hospital in St. John the Baptist Parish

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study the feasibility of opening  
3 an inpatient hospital in St. John the Baptist Parish.

4 WHEREAS, in 2014, River Parishes Hospital in St. John the Baptist Parish was  
5 acquired by Ochsner Health System; and

6 WHEREAS, at the time River Parishes Hospital was acquired by Ochsner Health  
7 System, the LaPlace facility was expected to remain operational and provide emergency and  
8 primary care services until a new hospital was built; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2016, Ochsner Health System joined with Tennessee-based Acadia  
10 Healthcare to convert River Parishes Hospital into a psychiatric care facility; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2018, Ochsner Health System opened an eighty-two bed inpatient  
12 behavioral health facility and transferred diagnostic functions to a medical complex in  
13 LaPlace and created a stand alone emergency room; and

14 WHEREAS, since Ochsner Health System purchased River Parishes Hospital, the  
15 closest in-patient hospital is located in Kenner, Louisiana more than eighteen miles from St.  
16 John the Baptist Parish; and

17 WHEREAS, in a severe emergency, the residents of St. John the Baptist Parish must  
18 be transported to a hospital outside of the parish; and

19 WHEREAS, the lack of a local emergency and inpatient facilities has resulted in lost  
20 lives and has had a negative impact on the health outcomes of the residents of St. John the  
21 Baptist Parish; and

1           WHEREAS, the residents of St. John the Baptist Parish require and deserve  
2 affordable and accessible health care in their community; and

3           WHEREAS, a new inpatient hospital would provide residents of St. John the Baptist  
4 Parish with high-paying jobs, easily accessible health care, and encourage community  
5 growth.

6           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
7 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study the feasibility of opening an  
8 inpatient hospital in St. John the Baptist Parish.

9           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study called for in this  
10 Resolution, the Louisiana Department of Health shall consider all of the following:

11           (1) The distance from the major centers of population in St. John the Baptist Parish  
12 to the nearest hospital.

13           (2) The overall population and demographics of the community.

14           (3) The fiscal impact and cost of opening an inpatient hospital in the community.

15           (4) The need for inpatient medical care in the community.

16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall submit  
17 a report to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare by February 1, 2025 that  
18 summarizes the department's findings of the study called for in this Resolution.

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
20 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 282 Original

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Taylor

Requests that the La. Dept. of Health study the feasibility of opening an inpatient hospital in St. John the Baptist Parish.

Requires the La. Dept. of Health to submit a summary report of findings to House and Senate committees on health and welfare by Feb. 1, 2025.