

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 122

BY SENATOR MIZELL

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request local governing authorities throughout the state of Louisiana to adopt ordinances providing for the abatement of public nuisances in order to deter illicit businesses, including massage therapy establishments operating without a license or engaging in criminal acts.

WHEREAS, the operation of illicit businesses, including unlicensed massage therapy establishments and establishments engaged in criminal acts, have a direct effect on the health, safety, and welfare of residents and communities of the state; and

WHEREAS, these establishments are often linked to criminal activity, including human trafficking, illegal solicitation, money laundering, and the exploitation of vulnerable individuals; and

WHEREAS, the legislature has enacted laws regulating massage therapy establishments and authorizing licensure, inspection, enforcement, and disciplinary proceedings through the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy, R.S. 37:3551 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, despite the existence of laws regulating the massage therapy industry, illicit operators often find loopholes, operate under false pretenses, or ignore regulations, causing the degradation of neighborhoods and surrounding businesses; and

WHEREAS, every local governing authority has vested interest in maintaining the integrity of its community and is in a position to adopt and enforce ordinances that declare illicit operations, and public nuisances subject to abatement; and

WHEREAS, public nuisance ordinances can provide for enhanced civil enforcement, including the revocation of occupational licenses, prohibition of permitting massage therapy establishments at locations that have previously been revoked, and immediate closure of noncompliant establishments; and

WHEREAS, empowering every local governing authority with effective nuisance abatement ordinances will significantly aid in the dismantling of networks of illicit activity and promote safety and lawful economic development.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request every local governing authority throughout the state to consider the adoption of public nuisance abatement ordinances designed to deter and shut down illicit businesses, including but not limited to massage therapy establishments operating without a license and establishments engaged in criminal acts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Municipal Association for its consideration and appropriate action and the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE