

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 22

BY SENATORS MYERS, BARROW, BOUDREAUX, JACKSON-ANDREWS, LUNEAU  
AND PRESSLY AND REPRESENTATIVES CHASSION AND SPELL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To request the legislative auditor to submit a report to the Senate and House health and welfare committees regarding opioid settlement fund expenditures.

WHEREAS, as a result of the nationwide opioid epidemic, multiple states filed lawsuits against companies that manufacture, market, promote, distribute, or dispense opioids; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana participated in the nationwide settlement, which will result in Louisiana receiving approximately six hundred million dollars in opioid settlement funds during calendar years 2022 through 2038, to be used for opioid abatement strategy; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana developed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the state and the parishes and sheriffs which serves as the governing document for all opioid settlements and details the allocation and disbursement of funds; and

WHEREAS, the MOU establishes the Louisiana Opioid Abatement Task Force as the advisory body over all opioid settlement funds for the state; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force contracted with the Louisiana Opioid Abatement Administration Corporation to carry out the administrative responsibilities of receiving and dispersing funds and receiving reports from recipient entities; and

WHEREAS, while the Task Force and Corporation have been successful in establishing a framework for the administration of funds, barriers to local governments spending the funds still exist; and

WHEREAS, a May 2025 report from the Louisiana Legislative Auditor showed that parishes and sheriff's offices indicated that barriers to spending settlement funds include a lack of knowledge of approved purposes, understanding of community needs, staffing,

expertise in substance use or opioid use disorders, and identification of programs and services in the area that are eligible for settlement funds; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health, through the office of behavioral health and the human service districts and authorities, has resources available to assist local governments in identifying appropriate uses of the funds; and

WHEREAS, the legislature could also assist in developing programs to help meet local needs; and

WHEREAS, in order to better help local governments and sheriff's offices identify how to connect residents with treatment and help they need, the legislature needs more information on current spending of the funds.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the legislative auditor to prepare a written, nonevaluative report on opioid settlement fund expenditures, in coordination with the Louisiana Opioid Abatement Administration Corporation and the Opioid Abatement Task Force, and present the report to the Senate and House health and welfare committees no later than thirty days prior to the start of the 2027 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature requests that the report includes the following information:

- (1) The total amount of opioid settlement funds received to date.
- (2) The total amount of allocations distributed to each parish and sheriffs' office.
- (3) An accounting of expenditures by each parish and sheriff's office according to the expenditures' purpose along the categories of treatment, prevention, and other strategies.
- (4) The established basis used to classify spending as "treatment", "prevention", or "other strategies" according to the approved purpose of such allocations.
- (5) The outcome or performance metrics tied to each expenditures where length of implementation or nature of expenditure lends to such measurement.
- (6) The reporting compliance status of each recipient as outlined in the MOU.
- (7) Unspent balances and anticipated future allocations.
- (8) Administrative costs, including staffing and contracts.
- (9) Identified barriers to reporting, oversight, or timely spending.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the legislative auditor, the Louisiana Opioid Abatement Task Force, and the Louisiana Opioid Abatement Administration Corporation.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES