

1 operated as part of the Earl K. Long Medical Center and kept patients with mental illness
2 from congesting hospital emergency departments and jails; and

3 WHEREAS, the MHERE was a type of crisis receiving center in which a staff of
4 mental health and behavioral health specialists provided a high level of screening and
5 assessment to people experiencing mental health or behavioral health crises; and

6 WHEREAS, the MHERE functioned to connect patients experiencing mental health
7 or behavioral health crises to either acute or ongoing community-based treatment;
8 diminished the need in the city and region for recurrent crisis services for persons suffering
9 from mental illness, substance abuse, or both conditions; and served as a crisis continuum
10 component that assisted law enforcement officers, hospital emergency departments, and jails
11 by treating persons with mental health and behavioral health conditions in an appropriate
12 setting; and

13 WHEREAS, since the closure of the Baton Rouge MHERE, public officials,
14 community leaders, and public health advocates throughout the capital region have
15 increasingly expressed concerns over the inadequacy of resources available for treatment of
16 persons with mental health and behavioral health conditions, with these concerns relating
17 equally to the well-being of persons whose critical health needs are going unmet and to the
18 mounting financial burdens that hospitals and detention facilities have incurred through
19 confining these persons in such costly settings.

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
21 urge and request the Capital Area Human Services District to conduct a study of systems for
22 providing appropriate mental health and behavioral health treatment in the capital region as
23 an alternative to hospitalization or detention in jails or other correctional facilities of persons
24 in mental health or behavioral health crisis.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study and its resulting report shall address,
26 without limitation, the following:

27 (1) Whether creation and maintenance of a system for providing appropriate mental
28 health and behavioral health treatment in the capital region could be accomplished within
29 the limits of the existing financial resources and healthcare infrastructure of the region.

1 (2) The cost of creating and implementing a system for providing appropriate mental
2 health and behavioral health treatment in the capital region if such a system cannot be
3 created and maintained within the limits of the existing financial resources and healthcare
4 infrastructure of the region.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing the study, the district may engage
6 and obtain information and commentary from public officials, community leaders, public
7 health advocates, and stakeholder groups at the discretion of the executive director of the
8 district.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the district shall submit a written report of
10 findings of the study required by this Resolution to the members of the Capital Region
11 Legislative Delegation, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, and the Senate
12 Committee on Health and Welfare no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2017
13 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
15 executive director of the Capital Area Human Services District.

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 112 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Carpenter

Urges and requests the Capital Area Human Services District to conduct a study of systems for providing appropriate mental health and behavioral health treatment in the capital region as an alternative to hospitalization or detention in jails or other correctional facilities of persons in mental health or behavioral health crisis.

Requires the district to submit a written report of findings of the study to the members of the Capital Region Legislative Delegation and the legislative committees on health and welfare no later than 60 days prior to the convening of the 2017 R.S.