

1 WHEREAS, within the U.S., Louisiana has a particularly high rate of infant
2 mortality; according to the 2016 America's Health Rankings report, at over eight infant
3 deaths per one thousand live births, Louisiana's infant mortality rate ranks forty-eighth
4 among U.S. states and is nearly twice that of the state with the nation's lowest infant
5 mortality rate (Massachusetts); and

6 WHEREAS, promoting safe sleep and reducing other risk factors for infant mortality
7 have been longstanding priorities of the bureau of family health of the Louisiana Department
8 of Health, the child welfare division of the Department of Children and Family Services, and
9 the Louisiana State Child Death Review Panel.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
11 urge and request the bureau of family health of the Louisiana Department of Health to
12 evaluate the feasibility and desirability of implementing a "baby box" program of the type
13 described in this Resolution as a means to promote safe sleep among families with newborns
14 and thereby reduce infant mortality.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the evaluation requested in this
16 Resolution, the bureau of family health shall engage, collaborate with, and obtain
17 information and perspective from the child welfare division of the Department of Children
18 and Family Services, the Louisiana State Child Death Review Panel, and any other
19 stakeholder groups as deemed appropriate by the director of the bureau of family health.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bureau of family health shall submit a
21 written report of its findings resulting from the evaluation requested in this Resolution to the
22 House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
23 no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2018 Regular Session of the Legislature
24 of Louisiana.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
26 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the secretary of the Department of Children
27 and Family Services, and the chairperson of the Louisiana State Child Death Review Panel.

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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Hilferty

Urges and requests the bureau of family health of the La. Dept. of Health to evaluate the feasibility and desirability of a prospective program to distribute "baby boxes" (sturdy cardboard boxes which double as bassinets and come with a firm foam mattress, tight-fitting sheet, and breastfeeding accessories) as a means of reducing infant mortality, akin to similar programs of three other U.S. states.

Requests the bureau of family health to report findings of the evaluation to the legislative committees on health and welfare no later than 60 days prior to the convening of the 2018 R.S.