

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 107

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

HEALTH/SMOKING: Requests the La. Department of Health to continue to study the desirability and feasibility of a potential increase in the minimum age for purchase of tobacco products to 21

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to continue to study the desirability
3 and feasibility of increasing the minimum age to purchase tobacco products in
4 Louisiana to twenty-one, and to report findings of the study effort.

5 WHEREAS, national data show the ages of eighteen to twenty-one are a critical
6 period when many smokers move from experimental smoking to regular, daily use; and

7 WHEREAS, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, over eighty
8 percent of adult smokers smoked their first cigarette before they turned eighteen, and
9 ninety-five percent of adult smokers begin smoking before they turn twenty-one; and

10 WHEREAS, the developing brains of young people are particularly susceptible to
11 the addictive properties of nicotine, and tobacco industry documents show that those who
12 start smoking by the age of eighteen are almost twice as likely to become lifetime smokers
13 as those who start after they turn twenty-one; and

14 WHEREAS, increasing the age threshold of persons to whom tobacco can be legally
15 sold will help counter efforts to target young people at a critical time when many move from
16 experimenting with tobacco to regular smoking; and

17 WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 177 of the 2017 Regular Session urged and
18 requested the Louisiana Department of Health, referred to hereafter as LDH, to study the
19 desirability and feasibility of increasing the minimum age to purchase tobacco products in
20 Louisiana to twenty-one; and

1 WHEREAS, though the report that LDH issued pursuant to this initial study effort
2 contains many significant and thoroughly researched findings concerning the prevalence of
3 tobacco use, this report also indicates that as of February, 2018, the membership of the
4 Louisiana Tobacco Coalition, which is the main tobacco control group of this state, is almost
5 evenly divided on the question of raising the minimum age for purchasing tobacco; and

6 WHEREAS, the LDH Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
7 uses evidence-based methods and interventions to reduce preventable risk factors that
8 contribute to chronic diseases, including those associated with smoking; and

9 WHEREAS, this division of LDH and the public health stakeholders that it convenes
10 are the ideal parties to continue a formal study of policy issues that can positively impact the
11 dire public health problem of smoking prevalence in this state.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
13 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health
14 to continue to study the desirability and feasibility of increasing the minimum age to
15 purchase tobacco products in this state to twenty-one.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall develop findings and
17 recommendations concerning this topic, and shall submit these findings and
18 recommendations in the form of a written report to the House Committee on Health and
19 Welfare no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the 2019 Regular Session of the
20 Legislature.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
22 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

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)]

HR 107 Original

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