

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 89

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRYANT

DRUGS/CONTROLLED: Requests a study of the effects of legalizing recreational cannabis usage

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To authorize and request the House Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural  
3 Development Committee, or a subcommittee thereof, and the House Committee on  
4 Administration of Criminal Justice, or a subcommittee thereof, to meet and function  
5 as a joint committee to study the impact of legalizing the possession and use of  
6 cannabis on the citizens of this state and to report its findings to the legislature prior  
7 to the convening of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

8 WHEREAS, currently eleven states and the District of Columbia have legalized the  
9 possession of cannabis by any person twenty-one years of age or older; and

10 WHEREAS, despite existing federal law prohibitions regarding the purchase and  
11 possession of cannabis, it appears that public opinion may be changing regarding the  
12 possession and recreational or therapeutic use of cannabis; and

13 WHEREAS, during the forty-eight years since the Louisiana Uniform Controlled  
14 Dangerous Substances Law has been enacted, attitudes in Louisiana regarding the  
15 recreational or therapeutic use of cannabis have changed; and

16 WHEREAS, Act No. 874 of the 1991 Regular Session of the Legislature authorized  
17 physicians to prescribe marijuana for the therapeutic use in patients suffering from certain  
18 types of medical conditions; and

19 WHEREAS, if the Louisiana Legislature wishes to consider the legalization of  
20 cannabis, that decision should be based upon facts which establish that the legalization of  
21 cannabis is in the best interest of the people of the state of Louisiana; and

1           WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the state of Louisiana to consider the legalization  
2 of cannabis; however, prior to legalizing cannabis, the Louisiana Legislature should consider  
3 many factors, including but not limited to the following:

4           (1) Establishing and maintaining procedures to regulate and produce cannabis.

5           (2) Establishing public safety protections to protect minors.

6           (3) Establishing public safety protections to identify and prosecute those who misuse  
7 legal cannabis.

8           (4) Creating rigorous testing and detailed labeling requirements.

9           (5) Providing equity and economic opportunities for the communities of Louisiana.

10          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
11 authorize and request the House Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development  
12 Committee, or a subcommittee thereof, and the House Committee on Administration of  
13 Criminal Justice, or a subcommittee thereof, to meet and function as a joint committee to  
14 study the impact of legalizing the possession and use of cannabis on the citizens of this state  
15 and to report its findings to the legislature prior to the convening of the 2021 Regular  
16 Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

17          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the House Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture,  
18 and Rural Development Committee, or a subcommittee thereof, and the House Committee  
19 on Administration of Criminal Justice, or a subcommittee thereof, shall work in conjunction  
20 with and obtain input from the Louisiana Department of Health, the Louisiana Board of  
21 Pharmacy, the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, the Louisiana Public Defender  
22 Board, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the Louisiana State Police, the Louisiana  
23 Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Criminal Justice, the Louisiana  
24 Public Defenders Association, the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the  
25 office of the attorney general, and any other agencies or associations deemed appropriate  
26 by the committee.

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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HCR 89 Original

2020 Regular Session

Bryant

Requests the House Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development Committee, or a subcommittee thereof and the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, or a subcommittee thereof to study the impact of legalizing the possession and use of cannabis and to report its findings to the House of Representatives prior to the convening of the 2021 R.S.