



1           WHEREAS, subsequent executive proclamations have extended the declaration of  
2 a public health emergency and provided for various business restrictions and social gathering  
3 limitations; and

4           WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic repercussions have  
5 negatively affected many people's mental health and created new barriers for people already  
6 suffering from mental illness and substance use disorders; and

7           WHEREAS, in a Kaiser Family Foundation Tracking Poll conducted in mid-July,  
8 fifty-three percent of adults in the United States reported that their mental health has been  
9 negatively impacted due to worry and stress over COVID-19 which is significantly higher  
10 than the thirty-two percent reported in March; and

11           WHEREAS, research links social isolation and loneliness to poor mental health, and  
12 data from late March shows that forty-seven percent of people who were sheltering in place  
13 reported negative mental health effects resulting from worry or stress related to coronavirus  
14 as compared to only thirty-seven percent among those not sheltering-in-place; and

15           WHEREAS, research shows that job or income-related loss is associated with  
16 increased depression, anxiety, distress, and low self-esteem and may lead to higher rates of  
17 substance use disorder and suicide; and

18           WHEREAS, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC),  
19 based on data received by the CDC through August 8, 2020, the survival rate associated with  
20 COVID-19 is 99.997% for individuals up to nineteen years old; 99.98% for individuals  
21 between twenty and forty-nine years old; 99.5% for individuals between fifty and sixty-nine  
22 years old; and 94.6% for individuals who are seventy years of age or older; and

23           WHEREAS, Louisiana residents may be suffering from quarantine fatigue and are  
24 ready to end the economic and social consequences of the COVID-19 restrictions so they can  
25 freely choose to send their children to school, worship in church, enjoy live music concerts,  
26 patronize alcoholic beverage establishments, dine at restaurants, attend social gatherings,  
27 participate in athletic events, and decide whether to wear a mask; and

28           WHEREAS, Louisiana residents are also free to remain home if they have concerns  
29 regarding the spread of the virus.

1            THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby suspends  
2 the provisions of R.S. 29:762(12)(a)(ii) and (b)(iii).

3            BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this suspension shall become effective upon  
4 adoption of this Resolution and shall extend through the sixtieth day after final adjournment  
5 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Brandi Cannon.

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DIGEST

SCR 8 Original

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

Fesi

Effective through the 60th day after final adjournment of the 2021 Regular Session, suspends R.S. 29:762(12)(a)(ii) and (b)(iii) which provide relative to the definition of public health emergency for the purposes of the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act.

Present law (R.S. 29:760 et seq.) provides for the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act.

Present law (R.S. 29:766(A)) provides for a state of public health emergency to be declared by executive order or proclamation of the governor, following consultation with the public health authority, if he finds a public health emergency has occurred or the threat thereof is imminent.

Present law (R.S. 29:762(12)) defines a "public health emergency" as an occurrence or imminent threat of an illness or health condition that meets both of the following criteria:

- (1) Is believed to be caused by any of the following:
  - (a) Bioterrorism.
  - (b) The appearance of a novel or previously controlled or eradicated infectious agent or biological toxin.
  - (c) A disaster, including but not limited to natural disasters such as hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high winds, and other weather related events, forest and marsh fires, and man-made disasters, including but not limited to, nuclear power plant incidents or nuclear attack, hazardous materials incidents, accidental release or chemical attack, oil spills, explosion, civil disturbances, public calamity, hostile military action, and other events related thereto.
- (2) Poses a high probability of any of the following harms:
  - (a) A large number of deaths in the affected population.
  - (b) A large number of serious or long-term disabilities in the affected population.
  - (c) Widespread exposure to an infectious or toxic agent that poses a significant risk of substantial future harm to a large number of people in the affected population.

(Suspends R.S. 29:762(12)(a)(ii) and (b)(iii))