HLS 21RS-450 ORIGINAL

2021 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44

BY REPRESENTATIVE BACALA

PUBLIC HEALTH/OFFICE: Authorizes and directs the La. Dept. of Health to include early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's and other dementia diseases within programs and services of the office of public health

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To authorize and direct the Louisiana Department of Health to include information on early
3	detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases in its
4	existing public health programs and services to educate healthcare providers within
5	its programs and services of the office of public heath.
6	WHEREAS, dementia is a general term for loss of memory, language, problem-
7	solving, and other thinking abilities that are severe enough to interfere with a person's daily
8	life; and
9	WHEREAS, according to Alzheimer's Association, Alzheimer's is the most common
10	cause of dementia and accounts for sixty to eighty percent of dementia cases; and
11	WHEREAS, early detection of such diseases is essential in providing access to
12	information, care, and support to persons living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia
13	diseases; and
14	WHEREAS, it is the intent of the legislature that existing health programs and
15	services educate healthcare professionals on the importance of early detection and timely
16	diagnosis of cognitive impairment and dementia; and
17	WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to provide information to increase
18	understanding and awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases; and

1	WHEREAS, it is in the public policy of this state to require the Louisiana
2	Department of Health to provide consistent guidance and effective education outreach
3	programs to healthcare providers across the state.
4	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
5	authorize and direct the Louisiana Department of Health in its existing public health
6	programs and services to educate healthcare providers on all of the following:
7	(1) The importance of effective care planning, including treatment options, support
8	and services, long-term care options, advanced directives, and care at every stage of
9	Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases to include appropriate counseling.
10	(2) The use of validated cognitive assessment tools.
11	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
12	authorize and direct the office of public health within the Louisiana Department of Health
13	to include provisions in its public health outreach programs that, at a minimum, accomplish
14	the following:
15	(1) Increase the awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases
16	including any link to chronic disease, such as vascular risk factors.
17	(2) Advise the public of the value of early detection of Alzheimer's disease and other
18	dementia diseases along with information on the early signs of such diseases.
19	(3) Educate the public on the importance of identifying and reporting signs of
20	Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases to healthcare providers for timely diagnosis.
21	(4) Increase data and surveillance applicable to Alzheimer's disease and other
22	dementia diseases and encourage additional data analysis and accurate reporting on death
23	certificates.
24	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
25	secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

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## **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 44 Original

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Bacala

Authorizes and directs the La. Dept. of Health to include information on early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases in its existing public health programs and services to educate healthcare providers.