

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 106

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT OWEN

INTERGOV COMPACTS: Requests a study regarding potential costs, benefits, and public health impacts of Louisiana joining the interstate compact known as the Solemn Covenant of the States to Award Prizes for Curing Diseases

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the office of public health of the Louisiana Department of Health, in  
3 collaboration with the Louisiana Public Health Institute, to study the potential costs,  
4 benefits, and public health impacts of Louisiana joining the interstate compact  
5 known as the Solemn Covenant of the States to Award Prizes for Curing Diseases  
6 proposed through legislation known commonly as the "Cure Bill" and to report  
7 findings of the study to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana.

8 WHEREAS, over the past several decades, advancements in health sciences have led  
9 to many innovative treatments for a vast array of health conditions, yet new discoveries of  
10 cures for diseases remain very rare; and

11 WHEREAS, several states have recently considered legislation known as the "Cure  
12 Bill" which would encourage states to work collaboratively to provide incentives for the  
13 discovery and propagation of cures for diseases; and

14 WHEREAS, by enacting the Cure Bill, a state would join an interstate compact  
15 known as the Solemn Covenant of the States to Award Prizes for Curing Diseases; and

16 WHEREAS, Ohio became the charter member of this interstate compact in 2019  
17 when its legislature enacted the Cure Bill through passage of House Bill No. 166 of the 133<sup>rd</sup>  
18 Ohio General Assembly; and

19 WHEREAS, in this 2021 Regular Session, the Legislature of Louisiana considered  
20 a version of the Cure Bill, House Bill No. 290, which the House Committee on Health and

1 Welfare reported favorably with no opposition pursuant to a May 12, 2021 hearing on the  
2 bill; and

3 WHEREAS, though the system for awarding prizes for curing diseases proposed in  
4 the Cure Bill is highly promising and would have little to no cost impact to the state, it has  
5 yet to be tested, as fewer than the minimum number of states necessary to effectuate the  
6 compact (six states) have enacted the compact legislation; and

7 WHEREAS, despite the favorable consideration given to House Bill No. 290 of this  
8 2021 Regular Session in the bill's committee hearing, the sense of the House of  
9 Representatives is that further study of potential costs, benefits, and public health impacts  
10 associated with Louisiana participating in the Solemn Covenant of the States to Award  
11 Prizes for Curing Diseases is needed in order for the legislature to make a fully informed  
12 decision with respect to enacting the Cure Bill in this state.

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
14 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the office of public health of the  
15 Louisiana Department of Health, working in collaboration with the Louisiana Public Health  
16 Institute, to study the potential costs, benefits, and public health impacts of Louisiana joining  
17 the interstate compact known as the Solemn Covenant of the States to Award Prizes for  
18 Curing Diseases.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of public health shall submit findings  
20 from the study called for in this Resolution in the form of a report to the House of  
21 Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana on or before February 1, 2022.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
23 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and the chief executive officer of the  
24 Louisiana Public Health Institute.

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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)]

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HR 106 Original

2021 Regular Session

Robert Owen

Urges and requests the office of public health (OPH) of the La. Department of Health, in collaboration with the La. Public Health Institute, to study the potential costs, benefits, and

public health impacts of this state joining the interstate compact known as the Solemn Covenant of the States to Award Prizes for Curing Diseases.

Requires OPH to report findings of the study to the La. House of Representatives on or before Feb. 1, 2022.