HLS 22RS-2137

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 80

BY REPRESENTATIVE CREWS

PUBLIC HEALTH/OFFICE: Directs the office of public health to conduct a comprehensive assessment of this state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To direct the office of public health of the Louisiana Department of Health to conduct a
3	comprehensive assessment of this state's response and outcomes with respect to the
4	COVID-19 pandemic and to report the findings of the assessment to the legislative
5	committees on health and welfare.
6	WHEREAS, a worldwide outbreak of respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2
7	coronavirus and named "coronavirus disease 2019", abbreviated as "COVID-19", was
8	recognized by global health authorities as a pandemic on March 11, 2020; and
9	WHEREAS, Louisiana experienced a gubernatorially imposed state of public health
10	emergency beginning on March 11, 2020, and running continuously through March 16,
11	2022, with the proclamations declaring and renewing the public health emergency imposing
12	a wide variety of restrictions on the people of this state; and
13	WHEREAS, any positive effects of this state's pandemic-related restrictions should
14	be considered in relation to any and all negative outcomes of those restrictions; and
15	WHEREAS, negative effects of governmentally imposed pandemic-related
16	restrictions may include any of the following: an increase in mortality from other causes;
17	prevention of families and clergy from being able to comfort and minister to the sick and
18	dying; an increase in anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation; an increase in substance use
19	disorders; the delay or suppression of child development and learning among young
20	children; the loss of tax revenue to fund essential services; an increase in criminality; erosion
21	of trust in medical advice and other health-related information issued by governmental

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sources; the suppression of the right to free speech of dissenting medical professionals; and the surrender of the constitutionally recognized concept of state sovereignty. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the office of public health of the Louisiana Department of Health to conduct a comprehensive assessment of this state's response and outcomes with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the assessment called for in this Resolution, the office of public health shall consider, at minimum, each positive and negative effect noted in the foregoing provisions of this Resolution and shall consult with any other state agencies as appropriate to obtain the data and other relevant information necessary to perform the assessment. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of public health shall survey the complete period of December, 2019, through April, 2022 and provide in the report called for in this Resolution all of the following: (1) Each date upon which an official recommendation was issued or an official action taken in the state's COVID-19 response. (2) The impetus or any other triggering event for each recommendation and action described in Paragraph (1). (3) Evidence supporting each recommendation and action described in Paragraph (1) along with citations for the sources of such evidence. (4) Evidence contraindicating each recommendation and action described in Paragraph (1) along with citations for the sources of such evidence. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of public health shall include in the report called for in this Resolution a section entitled "Lessons Learned" which shall identify recommendations made in the state's COVID-19 response that were found to be lacking in scope, detail, or justification, as well as recommendations that were proven to mitigate the harm to this state resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. In this report section, the office of public health shall indicate which of its recommendations differed from any guidance of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in effect at the time.

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1	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the assessment called for in this
2	Resolution, the office of public health shall study each case of an officially reported COVID-
3	related death in this state and include in the resulting report a classification of all such deaths
4	according to the following categories:
5	(1) Deaths of persons from COVID-19 with each decedent's comorbidities, if any,
6	noted.
7	(2) Deaths of persons with COVID-19 with each decedent's comorbidities, if any,
8	noted.
9	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, because reputable scientific studies utilize
10	control groups to ensure the validity of their findings, the office of public health shall make
11	comparisons of groups studied with appropriate control groups in conducting the assessment
12	called for in this Resolution. Examples of such control group utilization shall include,
13	without limitation, comparing the health of children in schools with mask mandates against
14	the health of children in schools without such mandates and health events and outcomes of
15	persons who received a COVID vaccine versus persons who did not receive a COVID
16	vaccine.
17	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of public health shall submit its
18	findings from the assessment called for in this Resolution in the form of a report to the
19	House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and
20	the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library no later than thirty days prior to the
21	convening of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.
22	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
23	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)]

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Directs the office of public health of the La. Dept. of Health to conduct a comprehensive assessment of this state's response and outcomes with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic. Requires the office to report the findings of the assessment to the legislative committees on health and welfare no later than 30 days prior to the convening of the 2023 R.S.