

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 80

BY REPRESENTATIVES CREWS AND GAROFALO

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 Louisiana Department of Health to conduct a comprehensive assessment of this
3 state's response and outcomes with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic and to report
4 the findings of the assessment to the legislative committees on health and welfare.

5 WHEREAS, a worldwide outbreak of respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2
6 coronavirus and named "coronavirus disease 2019", abbreviated as "COVID-19", was
7 recognized by global health authorities as a pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

8 WHEREAS, Louisiana experienced a gubernatorially imposed state of public health
9 emergency beginning on March 11, 2020, and running continuously through March 16,
10 2022, with the proclamations declaring and renewing the public health emergency imposing
11 a wide variety of restrictions on the people of this state; and

12 WHEREAS, any positive effects of this state's pandemic-related restrictions should
13 be considered in relation to any and all negative outcomes of those restrictions; and

14 WHEREAS, negative effects of governmentally imposed pandemic-related
15 restrictions may include any of the following: an increase in mortality from other causes;
16 prevention of families and clergy from being able to comfort and minister to the sick and
17 dying; an increase in anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation; an increase in substance use
18 disorders; the delay or suppression of child development and learning among young
19 children; the loss of tax revenue to fund essential services; an increase in criminality; erosion
20 of trust in medical advice and other health-related information issued by governmental

1 sources; the suppression of the right to free speech of dissenting medical professionals; and
2 the surrender of the constitutionally recognized concept of state sovereignty.

3 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
4 direct the Louisiana Department of Health to conduct a comprehensive assessment of this
5 state's response and outcomes with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the assessment called for in this
7 Resolution, the department shall consider, at minimum, each positive and negative effect
8 noted in the foregoing provisions of this Resolution.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall survey the complete period
10 of December, 2019, through April, 2022 and provide in the report called for in this
11 Resolution all of the following:

12 (1) Each date upon which an official recommendation was issued or an official
13 action taken through gubernatorial proclamation or state health officer order in the state's
14 COVID-19 response.

15 (2) The impetus or any other triggering event for each recommendation and action
16 described in Paragraph (1).

17 (3) The basis for each recommendation.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall include in the report called
19 for in this Resolution a section entitled "Lessons Learned" which shall identify
20 recommendations made in the state's COVID-19 response that were found to be lacking in
21 scope, detail, or justification, as well as recommendations that were proven to mitigate the
22 harm to this state resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. In this report section, the
23 department shall indicate which of its recommendations differed from any guidance of the
24 United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in effect at the time.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the assessment called for in this
26 Resolution, the department shall study each case of an officially reported COVID-related
27 death in this state and include in the resulting report a classification of all such deaths
28 according to the following categories:

29 (1) Deaths of persons from COVID-19 with each decedent's comorbidities, if any,
30 noted.

1 (2) Deaths of persons with incidental COVID-19 with each decedent's comorbidities,
2 if any, noted.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall submit its findings from
4 the assessment called for in this Resolution in the form of a report to the House Committee
5 on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the David R.
6 Poynter Legislative Research Library no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the
7 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
9 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)]

HCR 80 Reengrossed

2022 Regular Session

Crews

Directs 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 department 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.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Specify that data on deaths of persons with COVID-19 to be reported are to reflect deaths of persons with incidental COVID-19.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Change the entity responsible for conducting the assessment from the office of public health to the office's parent agency, the La. Dept. of Health.
2. Delete a requirement that the entity conducting the assessment consult with any other state agencies as appropriate to obtain the data and other relevant information necessary to perform the assessment.
3. Specify that the official recommendations or actions in the state's COVID-19 response to be examined in the assessment are those that were done through gubernatorial proclamation or state health officer order.
4. Delete a requirement that the report to result from the assessment include evidence contraindicating official recommendations and actions in the state's COVID-19 response.
5. Delete a requirement that the assessment feature comparisons of groups studied with appropriate control groups.