

1 WHEREAS, this law is part of what is known as the Jason Flatt Act, legislation that
2 the Louisiana Legislature passed along with numerous other state legislatures in the effort
3 to provide for statewide suicide awareness and prevention in schools; and

4 WHEREAS, another law proposed to be repealed by House Bill No. 320, R.S.
5 17:271.1, requires the governing authority of each public school to provide to students in
6 grades kindergarten through twelve classroom instruction relative to mental health,
7 including, at minimum, information on preventive mental health measures; the relationship
8 and the difference between mental health and physical health; brain health, emotional health,
9 identifying trauma and stress, and the impact of trauma and stress on mental health and
10 physical health; resources and services available to assist people with mental health issues;
11 and the management of stress and anxiety; and

12 WHEREAS, many legislators have stated that they wish to remove certain
13 requirements previously enacted by the legislature and grant BESE the general authority to
14 provide for instructional and training requirements by rule; however, at the same time, many
15 legislators have expressed their belief in the importance of some of these requirements and
16 their desire for BESE to prioritize them in its rulemaking process, particularly as they pertain
17 to suicide prevention and mental health.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
19 urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to prioritize
20 policies pertaining to suicide prevention and mental health education in its rulemaking
21 process as authorized by House Bill No. 320 of this 2024 Regular Session should that bill
22 become law.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state board shall provide ample opportunity
24 for input from concerned citizens and advocacy groups, including but not limited to Peer
25 Initiative, in the rule promulgation process.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
27 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state
28 superintendent of education.

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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Requests that the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education prioritize policies pertaining to suicide prevention and mental health education in the rule promulgation authorized by H.B. No. 320 of this 2024 R.S. should that bill become law.