

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 133

BY REPRESENTATIVE OWEN

HOMELAND SECURITY: Requests the House Select Committee on Homeland Security to review state government actions during the COVID-19 Pandemic and postpandemic period and make recommendations to improve the government's response in future health emergencies

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To request the House Select Committee on Homeland Security to review state government
3 actions during the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including the related
4 shutdowns and other postpandemic activities, and to make recommendations to
5 improve the state's response in future health emergencies.

6 WHEREAS, COVID-19 was first described as a public health emergency of
7 international concern early in 2020 and created both a public health crisis and an economic
8 crisis in the United States and across the globe; and

9 WHEREAS, all units of government, including but not limited to the executive,
10 legislative, and judicial branches of state government in Louisiana, were prompted and
11 forced to take unprecedented actions to first analyze, respond to, and then attempt to function
12 while the worldwide pandemic unfolded; and

13 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and related shutdowns caused great societal
14 disruption and had drastic impacts on our health and welfare including mental health,
15 educational systems and outcomes, and our economy; and

16 WHEREAS, analysis shows that the impact of the pandemic on K–12 student
17 learning was significant, leaving students on average five months behind in mathematics and
18 four months behind in reading by the end of the school year; widened preexisting
19 opportunity and achievement gaps; and had an impact on not just academics but also the

1 broader health and well-being of students, with a significant number of parents very or
2 extremely concerned about their children's mental health; and

3 WHEREAS, the fallout from the pandemic threatens to depress this generation's
4 prospects and constrict their future opportunities; and

5 WHEREAS, the pandemic has disrupted lives, pushed the hospital system to its
6 capacity, and created an ongoing global economic slowdown; and

7 WHEREAS, government exists to serve the public and provide order and a structure
8 whereby people can make their needs and opinions known to public officials; and

9 WHEREAS, Louisiana citizens deserve to know that their government will do all in
10 its power to study the appropriateness of its response to the pandemic and ensure mistakes
11 made previously will not be repeated and that every effort will be made to respect their rights
12 and overall health and welfare; and

13 WHEREAS, all actions of government should be open to review and analysis for the
14 public good.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
16 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the House Select Committee on Homeland
17 Security to review state government actions during the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
18 pandemic, including the related shutdowns and other postpandemic activities, and to report
19 its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives not later than March 30,
20 2025.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report include the following:

22 (1) Recommendations for any changes to law to enable the state to better handle
23 future pandemics.

24 (2) Identification of successes and failures of government during the pandemic
25 including the related shutdowns and other postpandemic activities with recommended
26 pathways for the future.

27 (3) Identification of key governmental infringements on the civil liberties of
28 Louisiana's citizens and recommended pathways for the future.

1 (4) Identification of actions by government that may have assisted or harmed
2 educational outcomes of Louisiana K-12 and higher education students and recommended
3 pathways for the future.

4 (5) Identification of key governmental actions that affected the economic health and
5 future of the state of Louisiana and recommended pathways for the future.

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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