

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 282

BY REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study the feasibility of opening an inpatient hospital in St. John the Baptist Parish.

WHEREAS, in 2014, River Parishes Hospital in St. John the Baptist Parish was acquired by Ochsner Health System; and

WHEREAS, at the time River Parishes Hospital was acquired by Ochsner Health System, the LaPlace facility was expected to remain operational and provide emergency and primary care services until a new hospital was built; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Ochsner Health System joined with Tennessee-based Acadia Healthcare to convert River Parishes Hospital into a psychiatric care facility; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Ochsner Health System opened an eighty-two bed inpatient behavioral health facility and transferred diagnostic functions to a medical complex in LaPlace and created a stand alone emergency room; and

WHEREAS, since Ochsner Health System purchased River Parishes Hospital, the closest in-patient hospital is located in Kenner, Louisiana more than eighteen miles from St. John the Baptist Parish; and

WHEREAS, in a severe emergency, the residents of St. John the Baptist Parish must be transported to a hospital outside of the parish; and

WHEREAS, the lack of a local emergency and inpatient facilities has resulted in lost lives and has had a negative impact on the health outcomes of the residents of St. John the Baptist Parish; and

WHEREAS, the residents of St. John the Baptist Parish require and deserve affordable and accessible health care in their community; and

WHEREAS, a new inpatient hospital would provide residents of St. John the Baptist Parish with high-paying jobs, easily accessible health care, and encourage community growth.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study the feasibility of opening an inpatient hospital in St. John the Baptist Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study called for in this Resolution, the Louisiana Department of Health shall consider all of the following:

- (1) The distance from the major centers of population in St. John the Baptist Parish to the nearest hospital.
- (2) The overall population and demographics of the community.
- (3) The fiscal impact and cost of opening an inpatient hospital in the community.
- (4) The need for inpatient medical care in the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall submit a report to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare by February 1, 2025 that summarizes the department's findings of the study called for in this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES