

2025 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 144

BY SENATOR MIZELL

NURSES. Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to propose solutions to the SANE nurse shortage.

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to propose solutions to the shortage of SANE nurses throughout the state.

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, also known as SANE nurses, are registered nurses or advanced practice registered nurses that have been specifically trained to provide comprehensive care to sexual assault survivors in the emergency room; and

WHEREAS, SANE nurses are trained to conduct forensic medical examinations that include examination of physical trauma, patient interview, collection and evaluation of evidence, and medical specimen collection; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has an alarmingly low number of SANE nurses, with only one hundred SANE nurses across the entire state, and only fifty-three of those are fully certified; and

WHEREAS, in the rural parts of the state, there are only a few SANE nurses tasked with serving vast areas and even in more densely populated areas of the state, there are simply not enough SANE nurses to meet the demand; and

WHEREAS, on any given night, a single SANE nurse may receive calls to provide care to sexual assault survivors at multiple hospitals in multiple parishes; and

WHEREAS, this shortage of SANE nurses creates delays in care, which leaves

1 survivors without timely access to the specialized support they urgently need; and

2 WHEREAS, survivors of sexual assault can face wait times of five to six hours
3 before they receive care from a trained SANE nurse; and

4 WHEREAS, in many emergency rooms, nurses without specific sexual assault exam
5 training are often tasked with performing rape kit exams; and

6 WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of sexual assault survivors are women and
7 children who have just experienced a traumatic event and should not have to wait hours to
8 receive care; and

9 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health, through the medical directors of
10 each of its nine regional health service districts, is responsible for reviewing and approving
11 an annual sexual assault response plan for each district; and

12 WHEREAS, a major component of the plan should be whether there are a sufficient
13 number of SANE nurses in each region to provide timely care to sexual assault survivors;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health can utilize its relationship with
16 hospitals, the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, and the Louisiana State Nurses Association
17 to identify ways to increase the number of SANE nurses in the state and ensure there is
18 adequate access to the vital services the SANE nurses provide; and

19 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health should perform a critical
20 assessment of the annual sexual assault response plan, including an evaluation of the current
21 SANE nurse employment model to identify opportunities for increased access to SANE
22 nurse services and propose solutions to ensure the sustainability of these critical services.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
24 does hereby request the Louisiana Department of Health to do the following:

25 (1) Work with stakeholders to identify ways to increase the number of SANE nurses
26 in the state to ensure adequate access to the vital services provided by SANE nurses.

27 (2) Assess the current annual sexual assault response plan and SANE nurse
28 employment model to identify opportunities for increased access to SANE nurse services
29 and propose solutions to ensure the sustainability of these critical services.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

1 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

	DIGEST	
SR 144 Original	2025 Regular Session	Mizell

Requests the La. Dept. of Health to propose solutions to the shortage of SANE nurses throughout the state.