



1           WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Hospitals, the Department of Children  
2 and Family Services, and the state Department of Education have demonstrated the value of  
3 coordinating services across the state through the implementation of such programs as the  
4 Coordinated System of Care; and

5           WHEREAS, each of these agencies has resources and programs designed to assist  
6 children, families, and communities in meeting mental health and counseling needs, yet each  
7 operates independently; and

8           WHEREAS, there is a great need for mental health and counseling services in public  
9 schools after accidents, acts of nature, and crisis situations; and

10          WHEREAS, coordination of available mental health and counseling services across  
11 state agencies to supplement school-based services could significantly increase supports  
12 available to Louisiana school children; and

13          WHEREAS, opportunities for aligning specific state mental health and counseling  
14 resources with the needs of public school students must be explored fully; and

15          WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every  
16 student an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is imperative that mental  
17 health and counseling resources available for public school students receive a thorough and  
18 collaborative evaluation so that determinations can be made as to how the state can best  
19 provide experiences and opportunities to students that help them succeed in all aspects of  
20 life.

21          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
22 urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals, the Department of Children and  
23 Family Services, and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study  
24 jointly the feasibility of coordinating state mental health and counseling resources for the  
25 purpose of providing supports to public school students and to submit a written report of  
26 findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate  
27 Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Education, and the Senate  
28 Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2014 Regular  
29 Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such report shall include but not be limited to  
2 the following elements:

3 (1) Identification of the resources that the Department of Health and Hospitals, the  
4 Department of Children and Family Services, and the state Department of Education offer  
5 across the state that could serve to meet the mental health and counseling needs of public  
6 school students.

7 (2) Recommendations relative to opportunities for aligning available state mental  
8 health and counseling resources with student needs.

9 (3) Recommendations, if any, relative to legislation necessary to remove obstacles  
10 currently preventing agency collaboration and the utilization of available resources to  
11 supplement the mental health and counseling supports being provided to public school  
12 students.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
14 to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, the secretary of the Department  
15 of Children and Family Services, the president of the State Board of Elementary and  
16 Secondary Education, and the state superintendent of education.

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#### 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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Schroder

HCR No. 133

Requests that the Dept. of Health and Hospitals, the Dept. of Children and Family Services, and the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education study jointly the feasibility of coordinating state mental health and counseling resources for the purpose of providing supports to public school students and submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the House and Senate health and welfare and education committees at least 60 days before the 2014 R.S.