A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To suspend, until fifteen days after the adoption of this Resolution, the provisions of R.S.
29:724(E), 766(D)(5), (6), and (7), 767, and 769(A), relative to criminal penalties for
violations of an order, rule, or regulation issued pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland
Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act; relative to the governor's
authority to compel the evacuation of any stricken or threatened area within the state,
to prescribe routes, modes of transportation, and destination in connection with an
evacuation, and to control ingress and egress to and from a disaster area, the
movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises therein; and
relative to the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
and its authority to adopt rules and to decontaminate buildings and materials.

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus named "coronavirus disease 2019", commonly
referred to as COVID-19, was first detected in December of 2019; and

WHEREAS, the governor of Louisiana declared a statewide public health emergency
on March 11, 2020, due to the risks related to public health associated with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the governor of Louisiana has extended his emergency disaster
declaration and stay-at-home order until May 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the president of the United States has indicated many states can reopen
by May 1, 2020, and shared federal guidelines for restarting the economy; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2020, the director of the Center of Disease Control and
Prevention (CDC) along with members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force have
recognized a significantly varied impact among communities all across the nation from the
coronavirus, and therefore many lesser impacted areas may be ready to reopen by President
Donald Trump's target date; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency
(FEMA) to develop such guidelines for restarting the economy; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is a diverse state made up of many different communities
each of which present different challenges culturally, socioeconomically, and medically; and

WHEREAS, the guidelines of the CDC, public health experts, and President Trump
recommend a region by region or county by county (parish by parish) reopening strategy;
and

WHEREAS, a single, statewide universal order limits the responsibilities and powers
of mayors and parish presidents in areas that otherwise might contemplate the reopening
process; and

WHEREAS, it is urged and requested that mayors and parish presidents be
empowered to reopen their communities by issuing proclamations and executive orders to
provide strategies in accordance with the guidelines provided by the CDC, FEMA, and
President Trump; and

WHEREAS, the economic shutdown which has resulted from the stay-at-home order
and the restrictions contained in the governor's emergency disaster declaration have resulted
in substantial economic loss and historic unemployment numbers for the people of
Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, public health indicators across Louisiana show great improvements,
including a decreasing rate of positive tests and fewer hospitalizations from all parts of
Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, efforts to "flatten the curve" in Louisiana have been largely successful,
the original predictions of COVID-19 overwhelming our healthcare system have not proven
true, and the healthcare facilities and workers of Louisiana have proven to be more than
capable of properly caring for the patient load presented by COVID-19.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby suspends
the provisions of R.S. 29:724(E), 766(D)(5), (6), and (7), 767, and 769(A), relative to
criminal penalties for violations of an order, rule, or regulation issued pursuant to the
Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act; relative to the
governor's authority to compel the evacuation of any stricken or threatened area within the
state, to prescribe routes, modes of transportation, and destination in connection with an
evacuation, and to control ingress and egress to and from a disaster area, the movement of
persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises therein; and relative to the
Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and its authority to
adopt rules and to decontaminate buildings and materials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this suspension shall become effective upon
adoption of this Resolution and shall extend through the fifteenth day after the adoption of
this Resolution.

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)]

Present law includes the following among provisions relative to emergencies:

(1) Imposes criminal penalties for violations of an order, rule, or regulation issued
pursuant to present law.

(2) Authorizes the governor to compel the evacuation of any stricken or threatened area
within the state, to prescribe routes, modes of transportation, and destination in
connection with an evacuation, and to control ingress and egress to and from a
disaster area and the movement of persons and occupancy of premises within the
area.

(3) Authorizes the director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and
Emergency Preparedness to adopt rules and regulations to implement his authority
under present law.

(4) Authorizes the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency
Preparedness, in accordance with a declaration of public health emergency, to close
or compel evacuation of or to cause decontamination of any facility and to cause
decontamination or destroy any material if there is reasonable cause to believe that
the facility or material may endanger the public health.

Proposed Resolution suspends present law for 15 days.

(Suspends R.S. 29:724(E), 766(D)(5), (6), and (7), 767, and 769(A))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and
Governmental Affairs to the original resolution:
1. Except as otherwise summarized above in this digest, remove provisions for suspension of present law providing for:

a. The governor's authority to declare a disaster, emergency, or public health emergency and his powers under a declared disaster or emergency.

b. The authority of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to coordinate the activities of all agencies and organizations for homeland security and emergency preparedness and the general authority and duties of the office with respect to disasters, emergencies, and public health emergencies.

c. Public health emergency planning.