

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 226

BY REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE

PUBLIC HEALTH/OFFICE: Requests the office of public health to study and report on cancer incidence in the Colfax, Louisiana area

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the office of public health of the Louisiana Department of Health to  
3 study cancer incidence in the Colfax, Louisiana area and to report findings of the  
4 study to the legislative committees on health and welfare.

5 WHEREAS, with the issuance of a permit by the Louisiana Department of  
6 Environmental Quality to a commercial facility for the open burning and detonation of  
7 explosives from the Camp Minden Louisiana National Guard facility, Louisiana became  
8 home to the largest expired munitions disposal project in the history of the United States;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, an open burn of millions of pounds of munitions per year is ongoing  
11 near the central Louisiana town of Colfax; and

12 WHEREAS, open burning is a disposal method whereby hazardous waste is placed  
13 in large metal trays and set on fire, releasing into the environment a multitude of toxins  
14 including chlorine, lead, and perchlorate; and

15 WHEREAS, many of these toxins are known carcinogens; and

16 WHEREAS, according to the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of  
17 Health, the American Cancer Society, and the annual America's Health Rankings report,  
18 Louisiana historically has had one of the highest cancer mortality rates in the nation, and this  
19 trend continues to the present day; and

1           WHEREAS, effective cancer investigation programs endeavor to improve  
2 understanding of cancer incidence by geographic area and to evaluate cancer control  
3 interventions; and

4           WHEREAS, as the open burn of munitions near Colfax continues, it is appropriate  
5 for the legislature to call for a study of and report concerning cancer incidence in that area  
6 of the state.

7           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
8 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the office of public health of the  
9 Louisiana Department of Health to study cancer incidence in the Colfax, Louisiana area.

10           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study called for in this  
11 Resolution, the office of public health shall engage and solicit input from agencies, research  
12 institutions, and other groups with expertise in cancer research and environmental sciences  
13 including but not limited to the following:

- 14           (1) The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- 15           (2) The Louisiana Cancer Research Center.
- 16           (3) The Louisiana Cancer Prevention and Control Programs of the School of Public  
17 Health of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans.
- 18           (4) The Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport.
- 19           (5) The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.
- 20           (6) The Louisiana Environmental Action Network.

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of public health shall develop a report  
22 of findings from the study called for in this Resolution, and shall submit the report to the  
23 House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare  
24 no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the 2019 Regular Session of the  
25 Legislature.

26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
27 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the assistant secretary of the office of  
28 public health of the Louisiana Department of Health, the director of the United States  
29 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the chief administrative officer of the Louisiana  
30 Cancer Research Center, the chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences

- 1 Center at New Orleans, the chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences
  - 2 Center at Shreveport, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality,
  - 3 and the executive director of the Louisiana Environmental Action Network.
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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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HR 226 Original

2018 Regular Session

Marcelle

Requests the office of public health of the La. Dept. of Health to study cancer incidence in the Colfax, Louisiana area and to report findings of the study to the legislative committees on health and welfare no later than 30 days prior to the convening of the 2019 R.S.