



1           WHEREAS, nationwide, forty-eight percent of nursing home residents are living  
2 with dementia and forty-two percent of persons residing in residential care homes and other  
3 assisted living facilities have Alzheimer's or another dementia; and

4           WHEREAS, nursing homes and assisted living communities are on the front lines  
5 of the COVID-19 crisis; and

6           WHEREAS, across the country, these facilities, their staff, and their residents are  
7 experiencing a crisis due to a lack of transparency, an inability to access necessary testing,  
8 inaccurate reporting, and other factors; and

9           WHEREAS, one-third of Louisiana's COVID-19 deaths have occurred in long-term  
10 care facilities; and

11           WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health licenses and regulates nursing  
12 facilities pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 40:2009.1 through 2011; and

13           WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 40:2166.1 et seq., the Louisiana  
14 Department of Health also licenses and regulates adult residential care homes and providers,  
15 which are commonly known as assisted living facilities; and

16           WHEREAS, nursing facilities and adult residential care homes and providers are  
17 referred to collectively as long-term care facilities.

18           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
19 direct the Louisiana Department of Health, referred to hereafter in this Resolution as the  
20 "department", to implement all of the following policies and mandates with respect to the  
21 long-term care facilities that it licenses and regulates:

22           (1) Each nursing home, adult residential care home, and adult residential care  
23 provider shall establish and implement a protocol to use testing to verify that all residents,  
24 staff, and visitors are free of COVID-19 infection, whether or not they are symptomatic. All  
25 such long-term care facilities shall report positive diagnoses of COVID-19 to the department  
26 within twenty-four hours, update previously reported cases at least weekly, and proactively  
27 notify family members and any designated persons of changes.

28           (2) The department shall maintain a web platform that contains COVID-19 data  
29 from all long-term care facilities which is searchable down to the facility level to make  
30 de-identified data available immediately upon reporting.

1           (3) The department shall establish a protocol for steps that each long-term care  
2 facility must take once a resident or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and shall  
3 require that this protocol be implemented by the facility.

4           (4) The department shall establish an isolation protocol for long-term care facility  
5 residents who test positive for COVID-19 for the purpose of keeping uninfected persons  
6 from sharing rooms with persons who are infected with the disease.

7           (5) The department shall issue a care coordination protocol to guide long-term care  
8 facilities and hospitals, respectively, during the transition between care settings in instances  
9 when a long-term care facility resident must be moved from his residence to an acute care  
10 setting.

11           (6) The department shall disseminate essential dementia care standards to aid  
12 provisional staff in the delivery of person-centered dementia care.

13           (7) The department shall implement the use of personal information forms for each  
14 resident to allow all staff to quickly identify essential information about the person to help  
15 maintain a stable and comforting environment.

16           (8) The department shall require that long-term care facilities address social isolation  
17 and ensure that people with dementia are able to communicate with designated family and  
18 friends.

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct  
20 the department to establish and administer a statewide long-term care emergency response  
21 task force composed of representatives of nursing homes, assisted living communities,  
22 patient advocacy organizations, and select department staff to coordinate with all key  
23 stakeholders and the office of the governor in order to identify pressing issues and  
24 implement solutions.

25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force established pursuant to this  
26 Resolution shall report findings and recommendations concerning protection of the health  
27 and safety of long-term care facility residents to the governor, each member of the  
28 Legislature of Louisiana, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library prior to the  
29 convening of the 2021 Regular Session of the legislature.

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

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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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HCR 13 Original

2020 First Extraordinary Session

Willard

Directs the La. Department of Health to implement certain policies to protect the health and safety of long-term care facility residents and to establish and administer a statewide long-term care emergency response task force. Directs the task force to report findings and recommendations concerning protection of the health and safety of long-term care facility residents to the governor and the legislature prior to the convening of the 2021 R.S.