

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 278

BY REPRESENTATIVE MILLER

HEALTH: Requests the Louisiana State University School of Health Sciences to conduct certain studies to identify associations between environmental risk factors and maternal health outcomes

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana State University School of Health Sciences to conduct
3 certain studies to identify associations between environmental risk factors and
4 maternal health outcomes and to report its findings by July 1, 2026.

5 WHEREAS, women and the unborn are exquisitely sensitive to chemical toxicants,
6 therefore a precautionary approach is needed; and

7 WHEREAS, the absence of health effects does not mean no health effects; and

8 WHEREAS, limitations of health surveillance include out-migration, disease latency,
9 health reporting gaps, data privacy rules, small populations, ecological fallacies in terms of
10 using parish level data to infer no problem at the local level, and complex exposures; and

11 WHEREAS, there are gaps in our knowledge of additive, synergistic, and cumulative
12 effects of complex exposures to chemical mixtures through the different life phases; and

13 WHEREAS, the gaps in environmental monitoring in communities adjacent to
14 industrial and agricultural areas limit our ability to connect the dots between exposure and
15 health outcomes; and

16 WHEREAS, regulatory standards, risk assessments, and oversight tend to focus on
17 one chemical, exposure route, or source at a time; and

18 WHEREAS, there has been only one peer reviewed study on the association between
19 reproductive outcomes and environmental hazards in Louisiana as opposed to seventy
20 related studies in Texas; and

1 WHEREAS, regulators often base facility permit decisions on cancer which can take
2 decades to manifest rather than effects like adverse respiratory, cardiovascular, or
3 reproductive events; and

4 WHEREAS, life expectancy, reproductive, developmental, renal, immune,
5 neurological, and other health outcomes need to be considered; and

6 WHEREAS, given the sensitivities of women and the unborn, there is a need to
7 conduct real-time environmental monitoring in high-risk areas, expand health surveillance
8 in emergency rooms, urgent care facilities, and OB-GYN clinics, as well as nurseries,
9 daycares, and primary schools, and conduct a comprehensive study of associations between
10 environmental risk factors and reproductive, developmental, and respiratory health
11 outcomes; and

12 WHEREAS, such data and studies could inform future surveillance efforts,
13 regulatory permitting practices and land use policies, and public health interventions to
14 ultimately reduce health disparities and mitigate impacts.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
16 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana State University School
17 of Health Sciences to conduct studies to better identify high risk areas, health disparities,
18 contributing risk factors, environmental monitoring, and health surveillance gaps, and
19 associations between environmental risk factors and maternal health outcomes.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings of the study and recommendations
21 shall be provided to the House and Senate health and welfare committees and the Senate
22 Select Committee on Women and Children in the form of a written report no later than July
23 1, 2026.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one print copy and one electronic copy of any
25 report produced pursuant to this Resolution shall be submitted to the David R. Poynter
26 Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
28 dean of the Louisiana State University School of Health Sciences.

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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Urges and requests the Louisiana State University School of Health Sciences to conduct research on the associations between environmental risk factors and maternal health outcomes and report its findings by July 1, 2026.