

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 297

BY REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON

HEALTH/SCHOOL CLINICS: Urges and requests the Louisiana Department of Education and the Louisiana Department of Health to jointly study and develop recommendations to ensure the continuity and preservation of school-based health center services if a public school undergoes a change in operational control or governance

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Education and the Louisiana Department
3 of Health to jointly study and develop recommendations to ensure the continuity and
4 preservation of school-based health center services if a public school undergoes a
5 change in operational control or governance.

6 WHEREAS, school-based health centers, or SBHCs, are not a new creation and have
7 been utilized as early as the 1960s; and

8 WHEREAS, SBHCs are staffed with a team of trained healthcare professionals, such
9 as physicians, nurses, and mental health counselors, which allows SBHCs to provide critical
10 and comprehensive health services to students, including primary care, behavioral health,
11 and preventive services directly to students on school campuses; and

WHEREAS, SBHCs have a proven track record of improving health outcomes by addressing and reducing challenges caused by health disparities and increasing access to healthcare to underserved student populations; and

15 WHEREAS, since SBHCs are located on school campuses, SBHCs are able to
16 provide onsite healthcare services, which provides less burdensome access to care for
17 students and which sequentially leads to a reduction in absenteeism and enhances academic
18 performance; and

1 WHEREAS, in addition to collaborating with schools, SBHCs often collaborate with
2 healthcare organizations and community partners to not only provide health services to
3 students but also to provide necessary resources to parents and school staff; and

4 WHEREAS, any disruptions to these collaborations, particularly changes in school
5 operators such as charter conversions, management transitions, or shifts in district oversight,
6 can create gaps or interruptions in SBHC services due to administrative, contractual, or
7 logistical challenges; and

8 WHEREAS, any disruption in school governance can lead to reduced school
9 effectiveness, delayed or ineffective policy implementation, and increased stress among
10 school staff, students, and parents; and

11 WHEREAS, due to SBHCs proven track record, it is clear that the preservation of
12 these vital services during such transitions is essential to protect the health and well-being
13 of students and families who depend on them; and

14 WHEREAS, there is a compelling need for formalized recommendations that outline
15 responsibilities, timelines, and best practices for maintaining SBHC operations during times
16 of change in school governance.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
18 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of
19 Education and the Louisiana Department of Health to work jointly to study and develop
20 recommendations to ensure the continuity and preservation of school-based health centers
21 if a public school undergoes a change in operational control or governance.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departments shall collaborate with
23 stakeholders including but not limited to SBHC providers, school operators, local education
24 agencies, and community partners in the development of recommendations.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the recommendations shall include but not be
26 limited to the following:

27 (1) A recommended process for notifying and engaging SBHC providers in
28 advance of anticipated transitions.

29 (2) Guidance on preserving or renegotiating facility access agreements or
30 memoranda of understanding (MOUs).

1 (3) Model language for contractual provisions between schools and operators to
2 protect SBHC service continuity.

3 (4) Identification of statutory or regulatory barriers to SBHC continuity and
4 recommendations to address such barriers.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departments shall publish the
6 recommendations on their websites no later than sixty days prior to the 2026 Regular
7 Session.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
9 state superintendent of education and the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

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 Department of Education and the Louisiana Department of Health to jointly study and develop recommendations to ensure the continuity and preservation of services for school-based health centers if a public school undergoes a change in operational control or governance.