

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

BY REPRESENTATIVE SPELL

EDUCATION/SPECIAL: Requests the Louisiana Department of Health and the state Department of Education to analyze the adequacy of autism support services in the state

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and the state Department of
3 Education, in collaboration with the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy
4 of Pediatrics, to develop and complete a comprehensive report analyzing the current
5 breadth, quality, and adequacy of autism support services in Louisiana.

6 WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder affects a significant number of individuals and
7 families in Louisiana and requires a range of specialized support services across health,
8 education, and community sectors; and

9 WHEREAS, accurate, timely, and consistent diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder
10 is the essential gateway to early intervention and appropriate support services; and

11 WHEREAS, clinical assessments and diagnostic evaluations for autism spectrum
12 disorder are performed by multiple provider types, including pediatric primary care
13 providers, developmental-behavioral pediatricians, child psychologists, child psychiatrists,
14 pediatric neurologists, and school psychologists; and

15 WHEREAS, variations in tools, protocols, training, and standards across such fields
16 may impact diagnostic accuracy, consistency, timeliness, and equity of access to services;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, the Trump administration's Make America Healthy Again Commission
19 issued the Make Our Children Healthy Again Assessment; it brings critical attention to the
20 rising prevalence of autism spectrum disorder in the United States, highlighting it as part of

1 an unprecedented childhood chronic health crisis and calling for urgent action to address root
2 causes and improve outcomes for affected children; and

3 WHEREAS, following the federal government's leadership in prioritizing the
4 assessment and reversal of chronic childhood conditions, including autism spectrum
5 disorder, it is necessary to undergo a thorough evaluation of Louisiana's autism support
6 services to ensure alignment with best practices and to address any deficiencies; and

7 WHEREAS, collaboration between the Louisiana Department of Health, the state
8 Department of Education, and the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
9 is critical to address the multifaceted needs of children with autism.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
11 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and the state Department of Education,
12 in collaboration with the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, to
13 develop and complete a comprehensive report analyzing the current breadth, quality, and
14 adequacy of autism support services in Louisiana.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall include a comprehensive review
16 and evaluation of existing clinical assessment tools, diagnostic protocols, and evaluation
17 processes for autism spectrum disorder across all provider types including but not limited
18 to pediatricians, developmental-behavioral pediatricians, child psychologists, child
19 psychiatrists, pediatric neurologists, and school psychologists.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall include an assessment of
21 standardization; training requirements; inter-rater reliability; adherence to current
22 evidence-based guidelines, such as those from the American Academy of Pediatrics and
23 DSM-5-TR; wait times; cultural and linguistic competency; access barriers; consistency of
24 application; and overall diagnostic quality and equity.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall include a comparison of
26 Louisiana's autism support services and diagnostic practices to those in other states.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall identify system and service gaps;
28 service utilization trends; reimbursement inadequacies; workforce gaps; clinical quality
29 concerns, including diagnostic practices; fraud concerns; and any other factors deemed

1 relevant by the Louisiana Department of Health, the state Department of Education, and the
2 Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in recognition of the Make Our Children
4 Healthy Again Assessment's critical spotlight on autism spectrum disorder, and following
5 the federal government's leadership on this issue, the report shall inform Louisiana's efforts
6 to improve autism support services and outcomes for children and families in the state.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall be submitted to the legislature
8 no later than January 1, 2027.

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)]

HCR 27 Original

2026 Regular Session

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Requests the La. Dept. of Health and the state Dept. of Education, in collaboration with the La. Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, to develop and complete a comprehensive report analyzing the current breadth, quality, and adequacy of autism support services in La., and to submit the report to the legislature by Jan. 1, 2027.