

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 63

BY SENATOR OWEN

A RESOLUTION

To request the Louisiana Department of Health to study the feasibility of providing buprenorphine to paramedics in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, every year over two-thousand people in Louisiana die from a drug overdose, accounting for over two percent of nationwide overdose deaths; and

WHEREAS, death from drug overdose may be preventable with attentive care from first responders if they have life-saving medication available to them; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Louisiana enacted a law to allow first responders to carry and administer naloxone to individuals experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose; and

WHEREAS, up to forty-seven percent of patients refuse transport to the hospital after a naloxone reversal, leaving them at high risk for a fatal, repeat overdose; and

WHEREAS, Suboxone is a prescription medication that contains both buprenorphine and naloxone, and helps people with opioid use disorder manage opioid cravings and reduce withdrawal symptoms; and

WHEREAS, patients who encountered a Suboxone-equipped ambulance were over five times more likely to engage in addiction treatment within thirty days; and

WHEREAS, several states, including New Jersey and Delaware, and municipalities have authorized certain first responders to administer Suboxone; and

WHEREAS, programs in these states aim to bridge the gap between emergency care and addiction recovery.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request that the Louisiana Department of Health study the feasibility of providing buprenorphine to paramedics in Louisiana, including information on efforts in other states and municipalities, any potential logistical and legal challenges, and recommended protocols.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library, as required by R.S. 24:771, no later than February 1, 2027.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE