

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall identify system and service gaps;
26 service utilization trends; reimbursement inadequacies; workforce gaps; clinical quality
27 concerns, including diagnostic practices; fraud concerns; and any other factors deemed
28 relevant by the Louisiana Department of Health, the state Department of Education, and the
29 Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

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

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall be submitted to the legislature
6 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)]

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2026 Regular Session

Spell

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.