

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 178

BY SENATOR MIZELL

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study and make recommendations regarding modernization of the state's problem gambling prevention and education efforts, particularly among youth and young adults, and to examine opportunities for school-based education, higher education engagement, digital support resources, and early intervention strategies.

WHEREAS, legalized sports wagering and other forms of gambling have expanded significantly in recent years across Louisiana and the United States; and

WHEREAS, young people and young adults are increasingly exposed to gambling-related content through sports, online gaming, social media, advertising, and mobile applications; and

WHEREAS, problem gambling may negatively impact mental health, financial well-being, academic performance, family stability, and workforce participation; and

WHEREAS, many individuals experiencing gambling-related harm do not seek formal treatment or support until significant personal or financial consequences have occurred; and

WHEREAS, prevention and early education efforts may help improve awareness of gambling-related risks and encourage healthier decision-making among youth and young adults; and

WHEREAS, schools, colleges, universities, healthcare providers, and community organizations may play an important role in supporting prevention, awareness, and early intervention efforts; and

WHEREAS, modern public health approaches increasingly utilize digital education tools, voluntary self-assessment resources, and mobile support services to improve accessibility and engagement; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has the opportunity to evaluate innovative and evidence-informed approaches to problem gambling prevention and support that may improve access to information, education, and behavioral health resources across the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study opportunities to modernize Louisiana's problem gambling prevention and education efforts, with a particular focus on youth, college-age populations, and young adults.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department is urged to examine opportunities for age-appropriate educational resources and curriculum addressing gambling-related harms, financial literacy, decision-making, online gaming environments, and responsible behavior.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department is urged to examine the use of voluntary digital tools and mobile resources designed to support prevention, self-assessment, awareness, early intervention, and connection to behavioral health and recovery support services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department is urged to consult with the Louisiana Department of Education, the Louisiana Board of Regents, colleges and universities, behavioral health providers, community organizations, researchers, and other relevant stakeholders in developing its findings and recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department is urged to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library, as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than February 1, 2027.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE