ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

BY REPRESENTATIVE HENRY BURNS

HEALTH/DHH: Requests a study of the most effective means by which to reduce Louisiana's rate of suicide

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To authorize and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study the most effective
3	means by which to reduce the rate of suicide in Louisiana and to report its findings
4	to the legislative committees on health and welfare.
5	WHEREAS, a suicide is a tragic event which brings profound sorrow and a sense of
6	great loss to the loved ones of the person whose life was ended too soon; and
7	WHEREAS, while suicide occurs among persons of all ages, ethnic backgrounds,
8	and income levels, it is a particular problem among youth in Louisiana, with suicide ranking
9	as the third-leading cause of death for young people in this state; and
10	WHEREAS, suicides are sometimes preceded by warning signs exhibited through
11	a person's behavior, the detection of which can lead to prevention of a suicide; and
12	WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana finds that identifying and putting into
13	practice more effective means of suicide prevention is an important public health priority for
14	this state; and
15	WHEREAS, due to the abundance of specialized expertise among staff in its office
16	of behavioral health, the Department of Health and Hospitals is uniquely qualified to lead
17	a study effort which can inform policymakers on ways in which this state may mitigate the
18	tragic problem of suicide.

HLS 13RS-85

1	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
2	authorize and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study the most effective
3	means by which to reduce the rate of suicide in Louisiana.
4	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the department may
5	engage, collaborate with, and obtain information and perspective from stakeholder groups
6	with an interest in suicide prevention.
7	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall provide the findings of this
8	study in the form of a report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate
9	Committee on Health and Welfare on or before February 1, 2014.
10	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution and its resulting study effort be
11	dedicated to the memory of the late Matt Bison of Haughton, Louisiana, and to all families
12	of this state who struggle each day to cope with a loved one's suicide.
13	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
14	to the family of Matt Bison and to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

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)]

Henry Burns

HCR No. 15

Authorizes and requests DHH to study the most effective means by which to reduce the rate of suicide in La. and to report its findings to the legislative committees on health and welfare on or before Feb. 1, 2014.