

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 211

BY REPRESENTATIVE ABRAMSON

MENTAL HEALTH: Urges and requests the Department of Health and Hospitals to develop and maintain on the internet a list of behavioral health facilities and other pertinent information for persons seeking behavioral healthcare services

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to develop and maintain on the
3 internet a list of behavioral health facilities and other pertinent information for
4 persons seeking behavioral healthcare services.

5 WHEREAS, access to health care, including behavioral healthcare services, is a
6 major public health concern throughout Louisiana; and

7 WHEREAS, despite the increased awareness of behavioral health issues, many
8 individuals are still not getting the services they desperately need; and

9 WHEREAS, after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, it became increasingly difficult for
10 residents of Louisiana to access behavioral healthcare services, especially inpatient facilities;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, individuals in need of behavioral healthcare services and their family
13 members and friends are not always aware of where to access appropriate care; and

14 WHEREAS, individuals living with behavioral health challenges and their families
15 soon discover that the illness affects many aspects of their lives and that they need more than
16 medical help; and

17 WHEREAS, many loved ones are discouraged by the limited prospects for accessing
18 effective and appropriate treatment for their family members who suffer from behavioral
19 health conditions; and

1 WHEREAS, efficient access to behavioral healthcare services is often a critical factor
2 in achieving a positive patient outcome; and

3 WHEREAS, it is the aim of the Department of Health and Hospitals to protect and
4 promote health and to ensure access to preventative and rehabilitative healthcare services
5 for all Louisiana residents; and

6 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana is committed to caring for all residents suffering
7 from behavioral health conditions; and

8 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does
9 hereby recognize the need for greater access to behavioral healthcare services in this state.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
11 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and
12 Hospitals to develop and maintain on the internet a list of behavioral health facilities and
13 other pertinent information for persons seeking behavioral healthcare services.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the information to be made public and
15 maintained by the department shall include all of the following:

16 (1) A list of behavioral health facilities by region in the state including the following
17 information about each facility:

18 (a) A physical address.

19 (b) A phone number at which callers may access appropriate personnel seven days
20 a week and twenty-four hours per day who provide information regarding bed availability.

21 (c) The types of beds and services available.

22 (2) Phone numbers such as the National Suicide Prevention Hotline which provide
23 information regarding access to local facilities.

24 (3) Any other information the department deems necessary to assist those persons
25 seeking behavioral healthcare services.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
27 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)]

HR 211 Original

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