

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 525

BY REPRESENTATIVE HENRY AND SENATOR ALARIO

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

HEALTH/CANCER: Provides relative to the Louisiana Cancer Research Center

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:1921, 1922, 1923(A), 1924(introductory paragraph) and (4),

3 1925, and 1926, relative to state-supported cancer research institutions; to provide

4 relative to the Louisiana Cancer Research Center; to provide for purposes of the

5 Louisiana Cancer Research Center; to provide relative to the executive director of

6 the cancer research center; to provide for governance of the center; to provide for

7 securing of National Cancer Institute designation; to revise legislative findings

8 relative to cancer research; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:1921, 1922, 1923(A), 1924(introductory paragraph) and (4), 1925,

11 and 1926 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

12 §1921. Findings and purpose

13 A. The legislature hereby finds and declares the following:

14 (1) Louisiana has one of the highest incidences of mortality from cancer

15 overall, with mortality from cancer particularly high in rural areas which have

16 limited access to cancer detection and treatment, among lower income Louisianans

17 no matter where they live, and among minorities.

18 (2) The unfortunate condition of Louisiana's high cancer incidence and

19 mortality rates provides the rationale for the establishment of an NCI-designated

1 cancer center in Louisiana that can study and address health disparities relating to
2 cancer.

3 B. The purpose of this Chapter is to create the Louisiana Cancer Research
4 Center of L.S.U. Health Sciences Center in New Orleans/Tulane Health Sciences
5 Center with the primary function of conducting research and promoting education
6 in the diagnosis, detection, and treatment of cancer in its pursuit of obtaining
7 National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation for the ~~two health sciences centers~~
8 cancer research center in New Orleans, Louisiana. ~~Data from multiple sources~~
9 ~~indicate that Louisiana's citizens suffer disproportionately from a high rate of~~
10 ~~cancer-induced deaths. The latest statistics from the American Cancer Society show~~
11 ~~that Louisiana has the highest cancer mortality rate in the nation. Approximately one~~
12 ~~hundred eighty Louisiana citizens die each week from cancer, and the cost to the~~
13 ~~state's economy is close to four hundred million dollars per year in lost productivity~~
14 ~~from excessive early death from cancer. By coordinating and focusing the its cancer~~
15 ~~research efforts at the Louisiana Cancer Research Center of L.S.U. Health Sciences~~
16 ~~Center in New Orleans/Tulane Health Sciences Center and by providing modern new~~
17 ~~research resources and infrastructure, the cancer centers in New Orleans, Louisiana~~
18 ~~will be able to develop their current facilities and recruit the new faculty members~~
19 ~~necessary to achieve secure the designation as of an NCI designated NCI-designated~~
20 ~~cancer center, the ~~recognized gold~~ preeminent standard for excellence in cancer~~
21 ~~research, treatment, and prevention. There are sixty such centers in the United~~
22 ~~States, but none in Louisiana, Mississippi, or Arkansas. The closest NCI designated~~
23 ~~cancer centers are three hundred fifty miles to the west of New Orleans at the M.D.~~
24 ~~Anderson Hospital in Houston, Texas, and three hundred fifty miles to the northeast~~
25 ~~of New Orleans at the University of Alabama Medical Center in Birmingham,~~
26 ~~Alabama.~~

27 §1922. Louisiana Cancer Research Center of L.S.U. Health Sciences Center in New
28 Orleans/Tulane Health Sciences Center; creation; domicile; fiscal year

