

1 WHEREAS, some people diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder may require
2 significant support in their daily lives, while others may need less support and, in some
3 cases, live entirely independently; and

4 WHEREAS, while scientists do not know the exact causes of autism spectrum
5 disorder, research suggests that genes can act together with influences from the environment
6 to affect development in ways that lead to autism spectrum disorder; and

7 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, autism
8 spectrum disorder affects an estimated one in fifty-nine children in the United States today;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, there is a need for Louisiana to address the current policies surrounding
11 individuals with an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis to ensure they have protections and
12 are not treated unfairly as a result of their diagnosis; and

13 WHEREAS, upon the request of a person medically diagnosed with autism spectrum
14 disorder or his guardian or caregiver, a certification card may be presented to law
15 enforcement or in other circumstances as established by the Louisiana Department of Health.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
17 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study the feasibility of issuing a
18 certification card to individuals with an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis that they may
19 carry on their person and present in certain circumstances.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall, in its
21 study, consider the following:

22 (1) The need for inclusion on the certification card of certain information including
23 but not limited to:

24 (a) The name of the person to whom the certification card is registered with a
25 corresponding card number to be issued by the Louisiana Department of Health.

26 (b) Emergency contact information for the cardholder.

27 (c) Information necessary to indicate that the cardholder has an autism spectrum
28 disorder diagnosis.

29 (d) Information necessary to explain that an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis is
30 a medical condition that may impair an individual's ability to communicate, may interfere

1 with his ability to understand directions and respond, and may cause agitation when the
2 individual is touched or approached closely.

3 (e) Information necessary to explain that certain behaviors are a result of an autism
4 spectrum disorder diagnosis and are not an intentional refusal to cooperate or intentional
5 defiance.

6 (f) A reference to a website or local organization that can provide more information
7 about an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis.

8 (2) The inclusion of an official seal on the card.

9 (3) The cost for the initial issuance of the card as well as the cost for a replacement
10 card.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Louisiana Department of Health shall submit
12 a written report of its findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation, if necessary, to
13 the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health and
14 Welfare no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2020 Regular Session of the
15 Legislature.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
17 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

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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Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to study the feasibility of issuing a certification card to individuals with an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis. Further requests the submission of a written report no later than 60 days prior to the convening of the 2020 R.S.