



1           WHEREAS, a 2023 press release by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
2 (CDC) reported that adolescents from all racial and ethnic groups have reportedly felt as  
3 though they lacked purpose and experienced higher levels of constant unhappiness; and

4           WHEREAS, the CDC's data stated that substance use for adolescents is commonly  
5 associated with mental health issues and other factors; and

6           WHEREAS, according to LDH, "The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the  
7 challenges facing adolescents' and children's mental health, causing altered experiences at  
8 home, school, and during in-person social interactions. The pandemic also highlighted the  
9 need for increased access to healthcare and social services as an alarming number of young  
10 people struggle with feelings of helplessness, depression, and thoughts of suicide. In  
11 response, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child and Adolescent  
12 Psychiatry, and the Children's Hospital Association have declared a national state of  
13 emergency in child and adolescent mental health."

14           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
15 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the chairman of the House Committee  
16 on Health and Welfare to form a subcommittee to solicit research and make  
17 recommendations for proposed legislation and policy changes relative to the mental health  
18 crisis in Louisiana.

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman of the House Committee on Health  
20 and Welfare or his designee shall serve as chairman of the subcommittee at its initial  
21 meeting to be held before September 1, 2023.

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before February 1, 2024, the subcommittee  
23 established by this Resolution shall submit to the House Committee on Health and Welfare  
24 and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library a report of its findings and  
25 recommendations.

26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
27 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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HR 71 Original

2023 Regular Session

Schlegel

Requests the chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare to form a subcommittee to solicit research and make recommendations for proposed legislation and policy changes relative to the mental health crisis in Louisiana.