



1 and management of state government, and to strengthen the executive capacity for effective,  
2 efficient, and economic administration at all levels...and to eliminate to the fullest  
3 practicable extent duplication of effort within the executive branch of state government in  
4 order to use wisely the funds of the state and more conveniently to meet the needs of the  
5 citizens of Louisiana which are supported by revenues derived from the people and from the  
6 natural resources belonging to them"; and

7 WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana grants the legislature responsibility for  
8 reallocation of offices, agencies, and other instrumentalities of the executive branch of state  
9 government and their functions, powers, duties, and responsibilities within not more than  
10 twenty departments, and government reorganization for the purpose of further consolidation  
11 of government functions and elimination of duplication clearly constitutes one of the most  
12 obvious, and potentially one of the most effective, ways to support the ongoing work of the  
13 legislature and the governor in response to the current budget dilemma; and

14 WHEREAS, primary candidates for such reorganization are the health and social  
15 services functions of state government, as the Department of Health and Hospitals and the  
16 Department of Social Services are major bureaucratic structures that serve many of the same  
17 clients and have closely related responsibilities and related eligibility and funding structures,  
18 and in fact the two departments were at one time a single larger department that also  
19 included the state's hospitals.

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
21 authorize and request the secretaries of the Department of Health and Hospitals and the  
22 Department of Social Services jointly to prepare a plan for abolition of the two departments  
23 and the creation of a new consolidated Department of Health and Social Services.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such plan shall have the purposes of promoting  
25 economy and efficiency in the operation and management of the functions of the state  
26 relative to health and social services, strengthening the executive capacity of the new  
27 department for effective, efficient, and economic administration while also improving the  
28 quality of the functions performed and the programs and services rendered by the new  
29 department for the citizens of the state, and eliminating to the fullest practicable extent  
30 duplication of effort within health and social services functions of state government.

1           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretaries shall conduct a comprehensive  
2 study and examination of the organization and operations of the two departments in order  
3 to develop such plan, and such study shall include but not be limited to consideration of the  
4 merger of functions, abolition of agencies, consolidation of offices, elimination of job  
5 positions, elimination of duplication of functions, full implementation of the office of  
6 management and finance and consolidation of its functions, and efficiency and economy in  
7 delivery of services.

8           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such plan shall include:

9           (1) A proposed organizational structure to accomplish the consolidation and  
10 assignment of the powers, duties, functions, responsibilities, and programs of the two  
11 departments within the new department and such improved and efficient operation and  
12 management of the state's health and social services programs and functions as needed to  
13 best accomplish the purposes of the plan as provided in this Resolution and the purposes of  
14 the Executive Reorganization Act.

15           (2) Provisions for transfer and utilization of positions, personnel, funds, office space,  
16 facilities, and equipment, and such other detail as is necessary to effectuate the merger of the  
17 two departments.

18           (3) Provisions for the transfer from the two departments to the new department of  
19 unfinished business, references in laws and documents, employees, property, contractual or  
20 other obligations, and books and records, and provisions for the effect of the reorganization  
21 on administrative rules.

22           (4) A budget proposal for the consolidated department to implement the proposed  
23 reorganization plan and related information, including the number and classification of  
24 personnel to be requested broken down by office; the amount of total funds to be requested  
25 by office broken down to reflect the proposed use of such funds; information concerning use  
26 of vehicles by each office and budget requirements therefor; information concerning  
27 consolidation of the operations of the office of management and finance; information  
28 concerning effects on personnel requirements and service delivery; and information  
29 concerning utilization of building space, supplies, and equipment.

1 (5) A report of the findings of the secretaries' comprehensive study and examination  
2 of the organization and operations of the two departments and any other explanatory material  
3 the secretaries determine to be necessary to explain the plan.

4 (6) Proposals for legislation necessary to implement the proposed plan.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretaries shall complete such plan and  
6 submit it to the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president of the Senate, the  
7 Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, the House Committee on House and  
8 Governmental Affairs, and the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs not  
9 later than December 31, 2009, and that a copy thereof shall be submitted to the governor and  
10 to the commissioner of administration.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget,  
12 the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, and the Senate Committee on  
13 Senate and Governmental Affairs, individually or jointly, may conduct such hearings as they  
14 deem appropriate to review the plan and material submitted by the secretaries and that the  
15 secretaries shall furnish the committees any information they may request concerning  
16 reorganization of the departments and appear before any of the committees to provide such  
17 information as any of the committees may request.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
19 to the Honorable Bobby Jindal, Governor of Louisiana; Ms. Angele Davis, Commissioner  
20 of Administration; Mr. Alan Levine, Secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals;  
21 and Ms. Kristy H. Nichols, Secretary of the Department of Social Services.

---

#### 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)]

---

Harrison

HCR No. 163

**Abstract:** Authorizes and requests the secretaries of the Dept. of Health and Hospitals (DHH) and the Dept. of Social Services (DSS) jointly to prepare a plan for abolition of the two departments and the creation of a new consolidated Dept. of Health and Social Services. Specifies plan contents.

Proposed resolution authorizes and requests the DHH and DSS secretaries jointly to prepare a plan for abolition of the two departments and the creation of a new consolidated Dept. of Health and Social Services. Provides that the plan's purposes are promoting economy and efficiency in the operation and management of state health and social services functions,

strengthening the executive capacity of the new department for effective, efficient, and economic administration while improving the quality of the functions performed and the programs and services rendered, and eliminating to the fullest practicable extent duplication of effort within state health and social services functions.

Proposed resolution provides that, in order to develop the plan, the two secretaries shall conduct a comprehensive study and examination of the organization and operations of the two departments, including but not limited to consideration of the merger of functions, abolition of agencies, consolidation of offices, elimination of job positions, elimination of duplication of functions, full implementation of the office of management and finance and consolidation of its functions, and efficiency and economy in delivery of services.

Proposed resolution provides that such plan include:

- (1) A proposed organizational structure to accomplish the consolidation and assignment of the powers, duties, functions, responsibilities, and programs of the two departments within the new department and such improved and efficient operation and management of the state's health and social services programs and functions as needed to best accomplish the plan's purposes as stated above and the purposes of the Executive Reorganization Act.
- (2) Provisions for transfer and utilization of positions, personnel, funds, office space, facilities, and equipment, and such other detail as is necessary to effectuate the merger of the two departments.
- (3) Provisions for transferring, from the two departments to the new department, unfinished business, references in laws and documents, employees, property, contractual or other obligations, and books and records, and provisions for the effect of the reorganization on administrative rules.
- (4) A budget proposal and related information for the consolidated department to implement the proposed reorganization plan, including the number and classification of personnel broken down by office; the amount of total funds by office broken down to reflect the proposed use of such funds; information concerning use of vehicles by each office and budget requirements therefor; information concerning consolidation of the operations of the office of management and finance; information concerning effects on personnel requirements and service delivery; and information concerning utilization of building space, supplies, and equipment.
- (5) A report of the findings of the secretaries' comprehensive study and examination of the organization and operations of the two departments and any other explanatory material the secretaries determine necessary to explain the plan.
- (6) Proposals for legislation necessary to implement the proposed plan.

Proposed resolution provides that the secretaries shall complete such plan and submit it to the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president of the Senate, the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, and the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs not later than Dec. 31, 2009, and submit copies thereof to the governor and to the commissioner of administration.

Proposed resolution provides that the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, and the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, individually or jointly, may conduct such hearings as they deem appropriate to review the plan and material submitted and that the secretaries shall furnish the committees any information they may request concerning reorganization of the departments and, at the request of any of the committees, appear before them to provide requested information.