

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 163

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to study the feasibility and effectiveness of establishing a procedure for allowing persons under the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to participate in bone marrow testing and for creating incentives to encourage participation.

WHEREAS, bone marrow transplantation is a relatively new medical procedure being used to treat diseases once thought incurable. Since its first successful use in 1968, bone marrow transplants have been used to treat patients diagnosed with leukemia, aplastic anemia, lymphomas such as Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, immune deficiency disorders, and some solid tumors such as breast and ovarian cancer; and

WHEREAS, the first step in a successful bone marrow transplant procedure is to locate a donor whose blood cells closely match that of the patient, which is done by tissue typing prospective donors; and

WHEREAS, a patient's siblings each have a twenty-five percent chance of being a tissue type match, less commonly, a parent may match the patient; and

WHEREAS, if a related donor is not available, then a search for a compatible, unrelated donor is performed through the National Marrow Donor Program; and

WHEREAS, finding bone marrow donor matches is critical for saving lives and providing effective treatment for patients who may have no other treatment options; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections is charged with housing many individuals who may want to participate in the National Bone Marrow Program; and

WHEREAS, those individuals provide additional opportunities for finding matches with patients who were otherwise unsuccessful in finding compatible donors; and

WHEREAS, incentives to encourage participation in the National Bone Marrow Program may be utilized to benefit both the patient and the donor.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to study the feasibility and effectiveness of establishing a procedure for allowing persons under the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to participate in bone marrow testing and for creating incentives to encourage participation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections work in conjunction with the Department of Health and Hospitals and any other entities or individuals it deems necessary to conduct this study.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall provide a written report of its findings to the Legislature of Louisiana on or before February 1, 2013.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE