



1           WHEREAS, the Huey P. Long Medical Center in Pineville has an estimated  
2 economic impact of one hundred thirty-five million dollars annually and employs five  
3 hundred twenty-eight full-time equivalent positions; and

4           WHEREAS, the Huey P. Long Medical Center in Pineville has continuously  
5 provided quality medical care to the indigent and uninsured populations of the nine parish  
6 region covering central Louisiana since 1939, when the original hospital structure was  
7 opened, and continues to serve vital patient care functions more than seventy years later; and

8           WHEREAS, inpatient services for the Huey P. Long Medical Center are provided  
9 at the facility located at 352 Hospital Boulevard, Pineville while the vast majority of  
10 outpatient services are now provided at a separate facility located at England Airpark at 2351  
11 Vandenburg Drive, Alexandria; and

12           WHEREAS, the condition of the Huey P. Long Medical Center located at 352  
13 Hospital Boulevard, Pineville has been determined to be inadequate for long-term operation  
14 of hospital services; and

15           WHEREAS, the facility that LSU leases located at 2351 Vandenburg Drive,  
16 Alexandria from the England Economic and Industrial Development District is a former  
17 military hospital and has been maintained in good physical condition; and

18           WHEREAS, funding for construction of a replacement hospital for Huey P. Long  
19 Medical Center was first contemplated in the state's capital outlay construction bill in 2001  
20 without subsequent progress toward construction; and

21           WHEREAS, current state debt limits, coupled with the state's multi-year economic  
22 outlook, restrict the ability of the state to fund the construction of a new hospital; and

23           WHEREAS, the governor and public policy organizations encourage local solutions  
24 tailored to local health care challenges; and

25           WHEREAS, the England Economic and Industrial Development District was  
26 statutorily created as a political subdivision of the state encompassing the territory of  
27 Rapides Parish, enabling it to accept title from the United States of America to the property  
28 included in the England Air Force Base and utilizing that and other property, and all  
29 assistance available from the federal government and all other sources, to replace and

1 enhance the economic benefits generated by the former air base with diversified activities,  
2 including health care; and

3 WHEREAS, the England Economic and Industrial Development District desires to  
4 renovate the building currently leased by LSU for clinic purposes as appropriate to create  
5 a full service in-patient hospital that will replace the outdated Huey P. Long Medical Center  
6 in Pineville as well as to renovate a building across the street from the hospital to serve LSU  
7 outpatient services needs; and

8 WHEREAS, by consolidation into one location and renovation, the England Airpark  
9 hospital would allow LSU to offer patients private and semi-private rooms instead of three  
10 to five bed wards, thereby enhancing patient confidentiality and privacy and improving  
11 patient access to care with all services on one campus; and

12 WHEREAS, eliminating duplicate departments resulting in staff reductions,  
13 improving bed utilization, reducing maintenance expenditures that continue to increase in  
14 an antiquated building, and eliminating cost of maintaining two campuses would provide the  
15 revenue stream necessary for LSU to make lease payments for the proposed facilities; and

16 WHEREAS, LSU could improve efficiencies and patient safety by eliminating staff  
17 time lost in commuting between two campuses, improving patient flow within the facility,  
18 improving environmental controls, and improving security; and

19 WHEREAS, consolidating services at the England Airpark would improve LSU's  
20 ability to recruit and retain needed physicians and other related staff in a medically  
21 underserved region and provide a modern facility to meet the stringent requirements for  
22 medical education; and

23 WHEREAS, locating the Huey P. Long Hospital at the England Airpark would  
24 complement the state's emergency response capability by having a facility that can provide  
25 medical surge needs for statewide evacuees by locating near an airstrip capable of landing  
26 C-130 military transport planes and in close proximity to the new statewide Critical  
27 Transportation Need and Medical Special Needs Shelter.

28 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
29 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express support for consolidation of inpatient and  
30 outpatient services at Huey P. Long Medical Center to create a sustainable and economically

1 feasible model, and to urge and request the governor, the Louisiana State University Board  
2 of Supervisors, and the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals to take all  
3 actions necessary to streamline services and create a fiscally responsible, viable public  
4 medical center in central Louisiana capable of continuing its integral role in health  
5 workforce training and delivery of high quality direct patient care.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
7 governor, the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, and the chairman of the  
8 Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors.

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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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Roy

HR No. 133

Expresses support for the consolidation of inpatient and outpatient services at Huey P. Long Medical Center.

Urges and requests the governor, the La. State University Board of Supervisors, and the secretary of DHH to take all actions necessary to streamline services and create a fiscally responsible, viable public medical center in central La.