

02022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 234

BY REPRESENTATIVES LANDRY AND HILFERTY

HEALTH/CHILDREN: Urges the Louisiana Department of Health and the governor to take such actions as are necessary to address and mitigate the effects of the baby formula shortage in this state

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and the governor of this state to
3 take action to address and mitigate the effects of the baby formula shortage in this
4 state.

5 WHEREAS, as of the date of filing this Resolution, there is a nationwide shortage
6 of baby formula; and

7 WHEREAS, national media outlets have reported that this baby formula shortage
8 resulted from suspected contamination that led to a recall and the ultimate shutdown of a
9 Michigan manufacturing plant; and

10 WHEREAS, an article published in the Washington Post stated that the "baby
11 formula shortage has put the medical community on alert, from pediatricians screening
12 infants for anemia to specialists struggling to replace the carefully calibrated recipes that
13 keep high-risk youngsters alive"; and

14 WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Publications noted in a
15 May 19, 2022, statement that "for infants, formula is often the only source of nutrition"; and

16 WHEREAS, according to the AAP, formula is designed to be one of the primary
17 sources of nutrition for a child's first year of life; and

18 WHEREAS, these shortages have been especially acute for children with allergies,
19 digestive issues, or metabolic disorders and for low-income families who rely on the Special
20 Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; and

1 WHEREAS, while formulas may be easily interchangeable for some babies, this
2 crisis can be catastrophic for complex-care babies who have trouble swallowing or
3 malformed bowels and receive tube feeding at home; and

4 WHEREAS, according to reports, the shortage is hitting economically disadvantaged
5 communities and communities of color hard in part because they rely heavily on formula;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the AAP has urged the Biden Administration to do everything in its
8 power to quickly increase the supply of safe infant formula in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, the severity of this crisis has greatly impacted the nation as well as this
10 state as Louisianians have suffered substantially as a result of this formula shortage; and

11 WHEREAS, New Orleans Metro News, also known as Nola.com, stated that,
12 "Louisiana has suffered slightly higher shortages than the U.S. average"; and

13 WHEREAS, New Orleans and the surrounding areas have been among the cities hit
14 hardest by the formula shortage, ranking third for out-of-stock percentages in mid-April,
15 behind only San Antonio and Houston; and

16 WHEREAS, while the nation's response to the formula shortage is steadily
17 developing, it is the duty of Louisianians to take action in response to the disastrous effects
18 that residents face locally; and

19 WHEREAS, other states have implemented certain policies to address the formula
20 shortage that include but are not limited to the following:

21 (1) Expanding eligibility for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for
22 Women, Infants, and Children formula options.

23 (2) Creating a statewide database that provides retailer availability information.

24 (3) Taking preventative measures against price gouging.

25 WHEREAS, Louisianians look to legislators, public officials, and state agencies to
26 assist in this response.

27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
28 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health
29 and the governor of this state to take action to address and mitigate the effects of the baby
30 formula shortage in this state.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
2 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and the governor.

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)]

HR 234 Original

2022 Regular Session

Landry

Urges the La. Dept. of Health and the governor to take action to address and mitigate the effects of the baby formula shortage in this state.