HLS 202ES-140 ORIGINAL

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

1

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

BY REPRESENTATIVES ECHOLS AND HORTON

LEGISLATIVE POWERS: Suspends the state of emergency declared by Proclamation No. 117 JBE 2020 and Proclamation No. 123 JBE 2020 (Items #1, 2, and 28)

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To suspend the state of emergency as declared by Proclamation No. 117 JBE 2020 and
3	Proclamation No. 123 JBE 2020 until the end of the 2020 Second Extraordinary
4	Session of the Legislature.
5	WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the
6	Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak as a worldwide pandemic; and
7	WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Governor John Bel Edwards issued Proclamation
8	Number 25 JBE 2020 to declare a statewide public health emergency due to the imminent
9	threat posed to Louisiana by COVID-19; and
10	WHEREAS, a declaration of public health emergency was necessary for state
11	agencies to thoroughly prepare for any eventuality related to public health and deploy
12	additional resources to assist local authorities and healthcare systems; and
13	WHEREAS, various experts had reason to believe that COVID-19 may be spread
14	among the population by various means of exposure, therefore posing a possibility of
15	widespread exposure and harm; and
16	WHEREAS, the extraordinary threat posed by COVID-19 initially caused critical
17	shortages of healthcare equipment, personal protective equipment, and shortages in hospital
18	beds throughout the state; and
19	WHEREAS, initial testing for the COVID-19 virus was limited, and limited research
20	was available to help understand the impacts of the COVID-19 virus and its possible effects
21	on the citizens of Louisiana; and

1	WHEREAS, the governor's proactive measures at the onset of the COVID-19 virus
2	were reasonable to protect the health and safety of the people of Louisiana; and
3	WHEREAS, in over six months following the governor declaring a public health
4	emergency, the medical supply chain has recovered and is capable of meeting demands for
5	COVID-19-related equipment and supplies; and
6	WHEREAS, the purpose of the phased reopening plan was to control the rate of
7	spread of the COVID-19 virus, as to prevent our healthcare system from being
8	overwhelmed; and
9	WHEREAS, after six months of state-directed effort, the emergency systems and
10	procedures that have been put in place, along with a sustainable medical supply chain and
11	an informed public, have overcome what was initially an imminent threat to our citizens and
12	healthcare system; and
13	WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands Louisiana citizens have lost their jobs, thousands
14	of businesses have permanently closed, and many more are at risk in the coming months; and
15	WHEREAS, students in Louisiana are being greatly hindered in academic and
16	extracurricular pursuits critical to their personal growth and development, significantly
17	impacting the future opportunity of our children and our state; and
18	WHEREAS, the governor has not, throughout the extended duration of this
19	unprecedented crisis, consulted with or sought the approval of the Louisiana Legislature, the
20	representatives of the citizens of Louisiana, regarding the state's response to COVID-19.
21	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
22	Legislature of Louisiana does hereby suspend until the end of the 2020 Second
23	Extraordinary Session of the Legislature the state of emergency as declared by Proclamation
24	No. 117 JBE 2020 and Proclamation No. 123 JBE 2020.
25	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this termination shall become effective upon
26	adoption of this Resolution.

HLS 202ES-140 ORIGINAL HCR NO. 16

## **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)]

HCR 16 Original

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

**Echols** 

Suspends the state of emergency as declared by Proclamation No. 117 JBE 2020 and Proclamation No. 123 JBE 2020 until the end of the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session of the Legislature.