

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 216

BY SENATOR MORRELL

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Senate Committee on Finance and the Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs to meet jointly to study and make recommendations with respect to possible uses for the money recovered from the opioid lawsuit by the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, experts say the United States is in the middle of an opioid epidemic, as more than two million Americans have become dependent on or abuse prescription pain pills and street drugs; and

WHEREAS, this epidemic is creating an expensive and deadly public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, local governments are spending more on schools, foster care, and other social services because of opioid addiction, and hospitals lose an estimated \$35 billion a year on uncompensated care of addicts; and

WHEREAS, one problem yet to be worked out is how state and local governments will document costs that are often shared between them to avoid double-counting, assuming any resolution of the litigation includes such detailed accounting; and

WHEREAS, opioid litigation is currently sweeping the nation, including the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, opioid litigation poses the issue of how potential settlement proceeds will be used.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Senate Committee on Finance and the Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs to meet jointly to study and make recommendations with respect to possible uses for the money recovered from the opioid lawsuit by the state of Louisiana and to report the recommendations to the Senate prior to the convening of the 2019 Regular Session of the Legislature.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE