A RESOLUTION

To establish and provide for a task force to study health care outcomes in this state, with particular emphasis on access to care and the role that physician assistants should play to assist with the shortage of health care providers, particularly in the area of primary care medicine, and to report the results of its study and recommendation to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes the necessity of establishing a task force to study health care outcomes in this state, with particular emphasis on access to care and the critical shortage of health care providers, particularly in the area of primary care medicine, and

WHEREAS, the state's expansion of Medicaid to cover an additional substantial segment of the population that did not previously have access to health insurance has created an additional demand for health care services, exacerbated by the growing shortage of health care professionals and geographic maldistribution of health care services in this state; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic created an unprecedented healthcare emergency, in response to which the governor issued Executive Order 41 JBE 2020, authorizing physician assistants (PAs), among other health care providers, to provide critically needed services to those in need of health care during this time, and...
WHEREAS, the public and the health care community were well served by the PA practice during this period, without adverse outcomes, and greatly enhancing the availability of health care to those in need thereof, particularly in medically underserved areas of the state, raising the awareness of the efficacy and utility of PA care in the absence of a health care emergency; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana continues to rank at the bottom of virtually every health care analysis as it relates to the provision of health care to its citizens, the health care outcomes resulting therefrom, and the general health of our state's population; and

WHEREAS, PAs are health care professionals qualified by academic and clinical education and competencies, who are licensed by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners to provide health care services to the citizens of Louisiana, and who have passed the national certifying examination for PAs, so that a high quality of care is assured; and

WHEREAS, the safety and efficacy of health care provided by PAs in a variety of medical settings has been proven during the recent health care emergency, thus demonstrating the wisdom of reevaluating limitations on PA practice; and

WHEREAS, the sharply rising costs of all aspects of health care mandate that a more efficient health care delivery system be considered, including the delivery of circumscribed health care services by PAs in certain proscribed settings and circumstances, when appropriate and consistent with the PA's qualifications, academic and clinical training, experience and competencies to provide such health care services; and

WHEREAS, there is growing national support for the removal of practice barriers for PAs which have been proven successful, cost-effective, and have provided a practical system of providing health care to medically underserved areas, including in the states of North Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, and Maine.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish a task force to study health care outcomes in this state, with particular emphasis on access to care and the role that physician assistants should play to assist with the shortage of health care providers, particularly in the area of primary care medicine, and to consider the programs of the states of North Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, and Maine as potential models for the improved integration of PAs into health care delivery.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) Three members designated by the governor.

(2) One member designated by the president of the Senate.

(3) One member designated by the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

(4) One member designated by the dean of the Louisiana State University School of Allied Health Professions, Physician Assistants Program in Shreveport.

(5) The three physician assistant members of the Advisory Committee of Physician Assistants of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.

(6) One member designated by the president of the Louisiana Academy of Physician Assistants.

(7) One member designated by the president of the Louisiana Hospital Association, and

(8) Two members of the Louisiana State Medical Society; one representing family medicine, the other a surgical specialty; both of whom are currently registered with the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners as supervising physicians of physician assistants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit their respective designees to the chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare no later than July 1, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force shall convene for its first meeting no later than August 15, 2021, at the call of the chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and at the first meeting, the members shall elect a chairman and other officers as the task force may deem appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a report on the results
of the study undertaken pursuant to this Resolution, and any recommendations resulting
therefrom, to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on or before December 31, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
Office of the Governor, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the physical
assistant members of the Advisory Committee of Physician Assistants of the Louisiana State
Board of Medical Examiners, the dean of the Louisiana State University School of Allied
Health Professions, Shreveport, the president of the Louisiana Academy of Physician
Assistants, the president of the Louisiana Hospital Association, and the executive director
of the Louisiana State Medical Society.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

DIGEST
SR 184 Original 2021 Regular Session Luneau

Creates task force to study health care outcomes in this state, with particular emphasis on
access to care and the role that physician assistants should play to assist with the shortage
of health care providers, particularly in the area of primary care medicine, and to consider
the programs of the states of North Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, and Maine as potential models
for the improved integration of PAs into health care delivery.

Provides for the following members of the task force:
(1) Three members designated by the governor.
(2) One member designated by the Senate president.
(3) One member designated by the secretary of LDH.
(4) One member designated by the dean of the LSU School of Allied Health
Professions, PA Program in Shreveport.
(5) The three PA members of the PAs Advisory Committee of the La. State Board
of Medical Examiners.
(6) One member designated by the Louisiana Academy of PAs.
(7) One member designated by the president of the La. Hospital Association.
(8) Two members designated by the La. State Medical Society; one representing
family medicine, the other a surgical specialty; both of whom are currently registered with
the La. State Board of Medical Examiners as supervising physicians of PAs.

Requires that the task force submit a report on the study and any recommendations to the
Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on or before December 31, 2021.