

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 186

BY REPRESENTATIVE SIMON

HEALTH: Requests a study to establish baseline data on access to health care in Louisiana and make recommendations concerning health system reforms that emphasize prevention and wellness

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study and evaluate the  
3 current level of health and well-being of the residents of Louisiana, as well as  
4 available and potential models of healthcare delivery to create a Louisiana Health  
5 and Wellness Innovation Plan that helps this state to achieve the goal of having the  
6 healthiest people in the nation with access to the highest quality, most efficiently  
7 delivered health care.

8 WHEREAS, efficient delivery of health care is necessary for the health, safety, and  
9 welfare of all residents of the state of Louisiana, yet many Louisiana residents have limited  
10 access to needed health care or have limited healthcare choices; and

11 WHEREAS, many Louisiana residents experience high out-of-pocket costs for health  
12 care, and the state as a whole experiences high aggregate healthcare costs; and

13 WHEREAS, the provision of high quality healthcare services, regardless of the  
14 setting, is of paramount importance; and

15 WHEREAS, new and innovative solutions must be identified to correct the problem  
16 of inefficient healthcare delivery; however, currently, there is insufficient data and  
17 information on the efficacy of alternative models of healthcare delivery; and

18 WHEREAS, the legislature has received conflicting information concerning whether  
19 overall access to healthcare in this state is expanding or diminishing, and whether the level

1 of care now available to Louisiana residents is adequate or insufficient, resulting from the  
2 transformation of the state's healthcare system; and

3 WHEREAS, as evidenced by the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 111  
4 of the 2012 Regular Session calling for annual reporting on measures which could improve  
5 Louisiana's low standing in the annual "America's Health Rankings" report, and by  
6 numerous other legislative instruments calling for studies and reports on disease prevention  
7 and treatment and other means of improving health outcomes, the legislature has an ongoing  
8 and deep concern for the health status and well-being of the people of this state; and

9 WHEREAS, Louisiana needs a healthcare system rooted in primary care and  
10 prevention, integrated with community resources, and truly accessible to its residents; and

11 WHEREAS, to improve healthcare quality, improve community health, and reduce  
12 the rate of growth in healthcare spending, Louisiana must foster a shared vision among a  
13 broad range of stakeholders to establish primary care as the foundation of healthcare delivery  
14 that is consumer and family-centered, team-based, evidence-driven, and coordinated, and  
15 in which value is rewarded over volume; and

16 WHEREAS, many individuals and groups are striving to improve the health of  
17 Louisiana residents and the healthcare system of Louisiana and there is utility in combining  
18 our disparate efforts in support of the public good; and

19 WHEREAS, nothing limits Louisiana from setting a goal to have the healthiest  
20 people in the nation with access to the highest quality, most affordable health care which will  
21 be attained when, compared to the other forty-nine states, Louisiana residents have the  
22 highest life expectancy, the highest percentage population with access to primary care, and  
23 the lowest per capita healthcare spending level; and

24 WHEREAS, the best strategy for attaining the state's goals of improved access,  
25 affordable costs, high quality care, and increased prevention is to strengthen the consumer's  
26 role in health and health care through innovations in patient-centered care and through  
27 support for healthy lifestyles; and

28 WHEREAS, this strategy must rest on the foundation of a sound healthcare system  
29 which requires a sustainable workforce, a strong health information infrastructure, and  
30 statewide leadership.

1           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
2 urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study and evaluate Louisiana's  
3 current statewide system of healthcare delivery, the current level of health and well-being  
4 of the residents of Louisiana, and the available and emerging models of healthcare delivery  
5 to develop a Louisiana Health and Wellness Innovation Plan to recommend positive reforms  
6 to move the state's healthcare system in the right direction to meet the state's goal of having  
7 the healthiest people in the nation with access to the highest quality, most affordable health  
8 care.

9           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Health and Wellness Innovation  
10 Plan shall focus on guiding principles which include, without limitation, the following:

11           (1) Whole-person-centered care is more than the integration of medical, oral, and  
12 behavioral health. It is also the consideration of social, cultural, emotional, and economic  
13 contexts for well-being. It is team-based, coordinated care for individuals with complex  
14 needs, provided in the right setting at the right time.

15           (2) Healthy families are the backbone of a strong community. Family health  
16 improvement requires attention to a community's particular healthcare needs and social  
17 determinants of health, requires the collaboration of a wide range of community partners,  
18 and the expansion of a diverse and well-trained workforce that includes non-traditional  
19 providers such as community health workers.

20           (3) Health information technology powers primary care transformation, enabling  
21 point of care information and communications, continuous learning, and performance  
22 improvement. The use of technology for data collection and analytics provides for  
23 evidence-based approaches to care delivery, population health management, consumer  
24 access to cost and quality information, and tools to measure achievement of access, quality,  
25 equity, and cost goals.

26           (4) Quality primary care is the bedrock of an effective healthcare delivery system.  
27 Access to primary care that is whole-person-centered, safe, effective, equitable, and based  
28 on the strongest clinical evidence is both fundamental and essential for improving health and  
29 healthcare outcomes.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing the plan, the department shall  
2 engage, collaborate with, and obtain information and perspective from stakeholder groups  
3 with appropriate expertise, including but not limited to the following organizations:

4 (1) The Pelican Institute for Public Policy.

5 (2) The Louisiana Center for Health Equity.

6 (3) The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Department of Health and  
8 Hospitals shall lead a comprehensive review of the duties required of the department by state  
9 and federal law, and based upon this review, shall prepare a departmental reorganization  
10 plan to improve the effectiveness with which the various offices of the department interact  
11 internally and with the residents of this state for the purpose of achieving the highest  
12 standard of excellence in supporting and promoting the health and well-being of all  
13 Louisianians.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departmental reorganization plan requested  
15 herein shall include but not limited to a better alignment of the functions of the office of  
16 public health with the Medicaid program.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall provide the Louisiana  
18 Health and Wellness Innovation Plan and the departmental reorganization plan requested by  
19 this Resolution to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee  
20 on Health and Welfare on or before February 1, 2016.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
22 secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

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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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Simon

Urges and requests the Dept. of Health and Hospitals to study and evaluate La.'s current statewide system of healthcare delivery, the current level of health and well-being of the residents of Louisiana, and the available models of healthcare delivery to develop a Louisiana Health and Wellness Innovation Plan.