

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 178

BY SENATOR BISHOP

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to facilitate the implementation of mobile integrated emergency response programs and nonemergency community paramedicine programs for the state of Louisiana and to create and administer a pilot program in a limited geographic area for this purpose.

WHEREAS, it is well established that emergency care is one of the costliest forms of healthcare delivery, and overutilization of emergency services is one of the major cost drivers in our healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, several states have instituted mobile integrated emergency response programs and nonemergency community paramedicine programs which use evidence-based practices to improve emergency response times, facilitate post-hospital discharge care, deter preventable hospital readmission, and provide for other benefits that address the problem of unnecessary overutilization of emergency departments and the associated costs; and

WHEREAS, mobile integrated emergency response programs and nonemergency community paramedicine programs can be cost savers and improve patient outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health can rely upon the frameworks already established in other states to promote and develop these programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to facilitate the implementation of mobile integrated emergency response programs and nonemergency community paramedicine programs for the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to collaborate with various stakeholders, including but not limited to healthcare providers, managed care organizations, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to facilitate and accomplish all of the following:

(1) Identify and overcome any impediments to the development, implementation, and financing of mobile integrated emergency response programs and nonemergency community paramedicine programs in the state of Louisiana.

(2) Create the standards for, implement, and administer a pilot program, in a manner consistent with existing scope of practice laws, under the auspices of the Louisiana Department of Health, in collaboration with Medicaid managed care organizations.

(3) Identify and obtain sources of financial support for the implementation of the pilot program, provide participation incentives to Medicaid managed care organizations as mutually agreed upon by the organizations and the Louisiana Department of Health, and ensure that the participation program is actuarially and financially sound and beneficial to the Medicaid managed care organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the implementation of the pilot program shall be contingent on available and appropriate funding and reimbursement outside of the current funding allocated for emergency medical transportation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall report on the results of the pilot program, including but not limited to health outcomes and the potential for shared savings, to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and shall provide recommendations as necessary to facilitate the implementation of these programs.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE