HLS 19RS-450 ORIGINAL

2019 Regular Session

1

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 78

BY REPRESENTATIVE STOKES

INSURANCE/HEALTH: Establishes the Advisory Task Force on Palliative Care and Quality of Life within the Louisiana Department of Health

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to establish the Advisory Task
3	Force on Palliative Care and Quality of Life to study ways to institute or improve
4	palliative care delivery in licensed healthcare providers and facilities in Louisiana,
5	to make recommendations regarding best procedures and policies, and to provide a
6	written report of its findings and recommendations not later than sixty days prior to
7	the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.
8	WHEREAS, palliative care is specialized medical care for people living with a
9	serious illness; and
0	WHEREAS, palliative care is focused on relief from the symptoms and stress of a
1	serious illness with the goal of improving the quality of life for both the patient and the
12	family; and
13	WHEREAS, palliative care is provided by a specially trained team of doctors, nurses
4	and other specialists who work together with a patient's other doctors to provide an extra
15	layer of support; and
16	WHEREAS, palliative care is appropriate at any age and at any stage in a serious
17	illness, and it can be provided along with curative treatment; and
8	WHEREAS, there is a need for Louisiana to address the current policies surrounding
19	the current state of palliative care in this state and how such policies can be improved upon;
20	and

1	WHEREAS, it would be wise to undertake appropriate study and analysis to enable
2	effective decisions concerning details of palliative care in Louisiana.
3	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
4	urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health (department) to establish the Advisory
5	Task Force on Palliative Care and Quality of Life (task force).
6	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following
7	members:
8	(1) The undersecretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his
9	designee.
10	(2) The assistant secretary of the office of aging and adult services of the
11	Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.
12	(3) The director of the Health Standards Section of the Louisiana Department
13	of Health or his designee.
14	(4) Two physicians primarily engaged in hospice and palliative medicine
15	appointed by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.
16	(5) Two nurses primarily engaged in hospice and palliative medicine
17	appointed by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing.
18	(6) A representative of the American Cancer Society who has palliative care
19	expertise.
20	(7) Two patient or family caregiver advocates appointed by the governor.
21	(8) One physician or nurse primarily engaged in pediatric palliative care.
22	(9) The executive director of the Louisiana-Mississippi Hospice and
23	Palliative Care Organization or his designee.
24	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall convene the first meeting
25	of the task force on or before September 1, 2019 and shall meet at least twice each year
26	thereafter.
27	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force shall serve without
28	compensation.
29	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall provide any necessary
30	support staff needed for the task force.

1	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall undertake all of the
2	following:
3	(1) Reviewing existing palliative care initiatives within the state.
4	(2) Making recommendations to the secretary of the department for the
5	establishment, maintenance, operations, and outcome evaluation of palliative care
6	initiatives within the state.
7	(3) Making recommendations to the secretary of the department regarding
8	palliative care information and education, including publishing information on the
9	department's website about palliative care for the public, recipients, and licensed
10	healthcare providers and facilities. Such recommendations may include information
11	regarding external resources, continuing educational opportunities, and palliative
12	care delivery in various locations.
13	(4) Making recommendations to the secretary of the department regarding
14	best practices for palliative care delivery in specific healthcare providers.
15	(5) Making recommendations to the secretary of the department on specific
16	healthcare providers and facilities regarding palliative care requirements for
17	licensing.
18	(6) Making recommendations to the secretary of the department on factors
19	that may impact the development of palliative care initiatives or systems within
20	healthcare providers and facilities, including but not limited to the size of the
21	provider or facility access and proximity to palliative care services, availability of
22	hospice and palliative care board-certified practitioners and related workforce staff,
23	and geographic factors.
24	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall prepare and submit an initial
25	written report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and Senate Committee on
26	Health and Welfare of the Louisiana Legislature not later than sixty days prior to the 2020
27	Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.
28	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall complete its study
29	and submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on

HLS 19RS-450 ORIGINAL HCR NO. 78

1 Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare not later than sixty

- 2 days prior to the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.
- 3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
- 4 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and to the appointing entities named in this

5 Resolution.

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 78 Original

2019 Regular Session

Stokes

Establishes the Advisory Task Force on Palliative Care and Quality of Life within the Louisiana Department of Health to examine ways to institute or improve palliative care delivery in licensed healthcare providers and facilities in Louisiana.