HLS 20RS-1572 ORIGINAL

2020 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 83

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

HEALTH CARE: Requests a study of the costs and benefits of setting Medicaid reimbursement rates for primary care services equivalent to Medicare rates for those services

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study the costs and benefits of
3	setting Medicaid reimbursement rates for primary care services at levels that are at
4	least equal to Medicare rates for those services, and to report findings from the study
5	to the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance, and
6	the legislative committees on health and welfare.
7	WHEREAS, the term "primary care" refers to routine healthcare services delivered
8	by clinicians who are accountable for addressing a large majority of personal healthcare
9	needs, developing a sustained partnership with patients, and practicing in the context of
10	family and community; this care includes screening, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment
11	for the purpose of promoting a person's health and detecting and managing a person's disease
12	or injury; and
13	WHEREAS, primary care is a vital component of any healthcare system and is
14	essential for improving and maintaining the health of any population; and
15	WHEREAS, due to its interconnected problems of poor health outcomes and
16	extensive health professional shortage areas, Louisiana has an especially pronounced
17	statewide need for an expansion of primary care; and
18	WHEREAS, greater access to and utilization of routine primary and preventive care
19	among members of any population, particularly a medically underserved one, reduces the
20	population's need for more expensive forms of acute care; and

1 WHEREAS, due to the measurable effects that expanding access to primary care has 2 in health outcome improvements and health system cost reductions, an expansion of access 3 to primary care in Louisiana is both responsible public health policy and sound fiscal policy; 4 and 5 WHEREAS, enhancing healthcare provider reimbursement rates for primary care in 6 the Louisiana Medicaid program is a direct incentive for increasing the availability of this 7 much-needed care in our state. 8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 9 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study the costs and benefits of 10 setting Medicaid reimbursement rates for primary care services at levels that are at least 11 equal to Medicare rates for those services. 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before December 31, 2020, the Louisiana 13 Department of Health shall report findings from the study called for in this Resolution to the 14 House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance, the House 15 Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library. 16 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 18 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

## 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 83 Original

2020 Regular Session

Echols

Request the La. Department of Health to study the costs and benefits of setting Medicaid reimbursement rates for primary care services at levels that are at least equal to Medicare rates for those services and to report findings from the study to certain legislative committees on or before Dec. 31, 2020.