

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 206

BY REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Workforce Commission to study and make recommendations about updating the current fee structure and reimbursement methodology for the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services' Vocational Rehabilitation Program and submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana not later than thirty days prior to the convening of the 2023 Regular Session.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) assists people with disabilities in their desire to obtain, maintain, or advance in employment opportunities and achieve independence in their communities by providing vocational rehabilitation services through partnerships with vendors with employer services and other community resources; and

WHEREAS, the LRS's Vocational Rehabilitation Program works with vendors in order to place and retain people with disabilities in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, vendors continue to provide vocational rehabilitation services to people with disabilities across the state, often at the expense of the vendor since the LRS is not always able to cover one hundred percent of the services' costs; and

WHEREAS, vendors routinely supplement LRS fees with alternative revenue streams as a result of an outdated fee structure that utilizes an inadequate reimbursement methodology that has not kept pace with inflationary factors, rising staff costs, and direct services costs; and

WHEREAS, the current fee structure places an extraordinary financial burden on vendors, which can no longer be sustained, resulting in the potential to cease service provision to people with disabilities, which places undue risks on the statewide vocational rehabilitation system and adversely impacts training, support, and employment opportunities for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, equitable reimbursement to vendors for the services they provide is necessary to ensure adequate employment support for people with disabilities to enhance financial and personal independence, ensure quality of services, and strengthen the vocational rehabilitation system statewide; and

WHEREAS, vendors of services for people with disabilities are essential components of the state vocational rehabilitation system, and the services they deliver are vital to employment success.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Workforce Commission to study and make recommendations about updating the current fee structure and reimbursement methodology for the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services' Vocational Rehabilitation Program and submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana not later than thirty days prior to the convening of the 2023 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the written report shall include but not be limited to the following:

(1) The current fee structure and reimbursement methodology of this state.

(2) A list of vendors with employer services that have partnered with the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services and the fees these vendors pay for services and costs incurred to train, support, and secure employment.

(3) A comparison analysis of other state's payment models.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES