

2026 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 154

BY SENATOR MCMATH

NURSES. Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to study the adequacy of the in-home skilled nursing services market in Louisiana.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study the adequacy of the
3 in-home skilled nursing services market in Louisiana and to report its findings and
4 recommendations to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

5 WHEREAS, medically fragile children and adults, including those with
6 tracheostomies, ventilator dependence, cerebral palsy, and other conditions requiring
7 multiple hours of skilled nursing each day, depend on a stable network of in-home nursing
8 providers to remain safely at home and out of institutional settings; and

9 WHEREAS, Louisiana home and community based services waiver waitlists for
10 children and adults with complex medical needs have historically extended for many years,
11 magnifying the dependence of medically fragile beneficiaries on in-home skilled nursing;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, in-home skilled nursing services delivered on a continuous or
14 extended-hour basis are clinically and operationally distinct from traditional intermittent
15 home health services, with different workforce, staffing, and provider economics; and

16 WHEREAS, Title XIX of the Social Security Act and federal Early and Periodic
17 Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) requirements obligate Louisiana Medicaid
18 to arrange for medically necessary continuous skilled nursing services for eligible children

1 under twenty-one years of age; and

2 WHEREAS, federal workforce projections anticipate a substantial registered nurse
3 shortage in Louisiana over the coming decade, and sixty of the state's sixty-four parishes are
4 designated Health Professional Shortage Areas, conditions that bear directly on the ability
5 of in-home nursing providers to staff authorized hours of care; and

6 WHEREAS, when authorized hours of in-home nursing care cannot be staffed,
7 beneficiaries are often served in higher-cost institutional or hospital settings, resulting in
8 increased Medicaid expenditures and avoidable hardship for Louisiana families; and

9 WHEREAS, on May 13, 2026, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
10 imposed a nationwide moratorium on new Medicare enrollments for home health agencies
11 and hospices, including in Louisiana, narrowing the avenues by which new in-home provider
12 capacity may enter the market; and

13 WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services finalized the Ensuring
14 Access to Medicaid Services rule in 2024, establishing new federal expectations for state
15 Medicaid agencies regarding service delivery timeliness, unfilled authorized hours, and the
16 adequacy of provider networks, and beginning in 2026, requiring states to report and publish
17 state hourly Medicaid payment rates for specified in-home services on a basis comparable
18 with other states; and

19 WHEREAS, any future adjustments to Louisiana's longstanding licensure framework
20 for home health agencies should be informed by data, stakeholder input, and careful study.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
22 does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study the adequacy of
23 the market in Louisiana for in-home skilled nursing services provided to Medicaid
24 beneficiaries, with particular attention to services provided on a continuous or extended-hour
25 basis to medically fragile children and adults, and to identify any barriers to ensuring that
26 authorized hours of medically necessary services are timely delivered.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall examine:

28 (1) Current provider network capacity for continuous and extended-hour skilled
29 nursing services, including geographic distribution and identification of parishes in which
30 the number of enrolled and actively serving providers is insufficient to meet authorized

1 service hours.

2 (2) The extent to which authorized hours of care are being filled and the workforce,
3 operational, and regulatory factors contributing to any unfilled hours, including wage
4 competition with hospitals and other settings, training pipeline capacity, and scope of
5 practice considerations.

6 (3) Whether current state policies governing the licensure and enrollment of
7 providers of continuous and extended-hour skilled nursing services are calibrated
8 appropriately to the unique characteristics of those services, including a comparison of
9 Louisiana's framework with the frameworks used in other states and identification of any
10 state-level exceptions or accommodations that have been adopted to maintain access to these
11 services, and whether targeted adjustments, including consideration of whether continuous
12 skilled nursing warrants treatment distinct from traditional home health for purposes of
13 provider participation, would improve access without compromising patient safety or
14 program integrity.

15 (4) The prior authorization criteria and utilization management practices used by
16 Medicaid managed care organizations for continuous and extended-hour skilled nursing,
17 including any reliance on commercial clinical guidelines, and the effect of those practices
18 on the number of hours authorized relative to ordered hours of care.

19 (5) The methodology by which payment rates for continuous and extended-hour
20 skilled nursing services are established under fee-for-service and incorporated into managed
21 care capitation, the relationship between current rates and prevailing registered nurse and
22 licensed practical nurse wage rates in Louisiana, and a comparison to rates in neighboring
23 states.

24 (6) The number of Medicaid beneficiaries, including medically fragile children, who
25 are receiving services in hospitals, long-term acute care, pediatric subacute, or nursing
26 facility settings primarily because authorized in-home skilled nursing hours could not be
27 staffed and an estimate of the associated Medicaid expenditures.

28 (7) The availability and capacity of Pediatric Day Health Care and other
29 community-based service models that complement in-home skilled nursing for medically
30 fragile children, including geographic distribution and unmet demand.

1 (8) The extent to which gaps in authorized hours are absorbed by family caregivers,
2 including evidence of caregivers reducing or leaving paid employment to provide care, and
3 the implications for family economic stability.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall
5 consult with affected stakeholders, including beneficiaries and their families, in-home skilled
6 nursing providers, home health agencies, managed care organizations, clinical professionals
7 familiar with the care needs of the medically fragile population, the Louisiana State Board
8 of Nursing, the bureau of family health, children's hospitals operating in Louisiana, pediatric
9 subspecialty societies including the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of
10 Pediatrics, disability rights and family-support organizations including Families Helping
11 Families regional centers, the Arc of Louisiana, and the Advocacy Center of Louisiana,
12 long-term acute care hospital representatives, and the legislative auditor as appropriate.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall use existing Medicaid
14 claims, encounter data, electronic visit verification records, prior authorization data, and
15 managed care organization network adequacy filings to the maximum extent practicable to
16 minimize the administrative burden of the study.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall provide a preliminary status
18 update to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare no later than October 1, 2026,
19 describing the scope of work undertaken, the data sources accessed, and any interim
20 observations.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department's report shall include any
22 recommendations for legislative or regulatory action the department considers appropriate,
23 including whether targeted adjustments to provider participation requirements for continuous
24 and extended-hour skilled nursing services would improve access while preserving patient
25 safety and program integrity.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall report its findings and
27 recommendations to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare no later than February 1,
28 2027.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
30 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and the legislative auditor.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

SR 154 Original	DIGEST 2026 Regular Session	McMath
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Requests the La. Dept. of Health to study the adequacy of the in-home skilled nursing services market in Louisiana and to report its findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.