

2026 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 160

BY SENATOR CONNICK

MALPRACTICE. Creates the Louisiana Medical Malpractice Task Force.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create and provide for the Louisiana Medical Malpractice Task Force to study and make
3 recommendations to improve the medical review panel process.

4 WHEREAS, the Medical Malpractice Act, R.S. 40:1231.1 et seq., establishes
5 procedures governing medical malpractice claims; and

6 WHEREAS, the medical review panel process was created to provide an expert
7 evaluation of medical malpractice claims, encourage the fair resolution of disputes, and
8 reduce unnecessary litigation costs; and

9 WHEREAS, a complex structure of laws, policies, procedures, and practices exist
10 in Louisiana with the length, complexity, and administrative burden of the current medical
11 review panel process; and

12 WHEREAS, several states have implemented merit-based screening systems
13 designed to identify frivolous claims at an earlier stage while promoting the efficient
14 resolution of meritorious claims; and

15 WHEREAS, the merit-based systems may include requirements for expert
16 certification, pre-suit affidavits, or expedited scheduling requirements; and

17 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Senate recognizes the importance of studying and
18 evaluating whether certain merit-based procedures implemented in other jurisdictions may

1 improve efficiency, and maintain fairness for both claimants and healthcare providers in
2 Louisiana.

3 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
4 does hereby create the Louisiana Medical Malpractice Task Force to study, evaluate, and
5 make recommendations to improve the medical review panel process, including to submit
6 a written report and propose recommendations for legislation, and reforms to policy and
7 practice.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall focus on guiding principles
9 which include, at a minimum, consideration of the following:

10 (1) Revisions to and streamlining of the medical review panel process in Louisiana.

11 (2) Benefits of the merit-based system used in other states.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Medical Malpractice Task Force
13 shall be comprised of the following members:

14 (1) The chairman of the Senate Judiciary A, or his designee.

15 (2) The president of the Louisiana Hospital Association, or his designee.

16 (3) The president of the Louisiana State Medical Society, or his designee.

17 (4) The executive director of the Louisiana Association of Justice, or his designee.

18 (5) The president of the Patients Rights Advocacy Forum, or his designee.

19 (6) Any additional persons may be appointed to the task force who are determined to have
20 relevant knowledge regarding the Medical Malpractice Act and the medical review panel
21 process, and would aid the task force in fulfilling its duties.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit the
23 names and contact information of the designees and appointed members to the chairman of
24 the Senate Committee on Judiciary A no later than August 1, 2026.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a
26 quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the
27 affirmative vote of the majority of the quorum.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on the date of the
29 submission of its report or March 1, 2027, whichever occurs first.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall convene for its first meeting

1 at the call of the chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary A, and at the first meeting,
2 the members shall elect officers as the task force may deem appropriate.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall adopt rules of procedure and
4 a meeting schedule, prepare an agenda for each meeting, and take any additional steps the
5 task force determines necessary to accomplish its goals, timely prepare its report, and make
6 its recommendations.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve
8 without compensation, except for per diem or expense reimbursement to which the member
9 may be individually entitled as a member of the respective organizations.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate Committee on Judiciary A shall
11 provide necessary staff to support the task force.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall report its findings and
13 proposed recommendations, together with specific proposals for legislation and reforms to
14 policy and practice by written report to the Legislature of Louisiana and to the David R.
15 Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than
16 March 1, 2027.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
18 chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary A, the president of the Louisiana Hospital
19 Association, the president of the Louisiana State Medical Society, the executive director of
20 the Louisiana Association of Justice, and the president of the Patient Rights Advocacy
21 Forum.

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 160 Original

DIGEST
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