

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 48

BY SENATOR LONG

HEALTH CARE. Provides for legislative approval of and support to the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University for the strategic collaboration with the state in creating a new model of health care delivery in the Alexandria and Pineville area.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To provide for legislative approval of and to express support to the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University for the strategic collaboration with the state relating to the closure of Huey P. Long Medical Center to facilitate a new model of health care delivery in the Alexandria and Pineville area.

WHEREAS, a sudden reduction in federal funding for the Louisiana Medicaid program was included in a sweeping transportation bill passed by the United States Congress and signed into law on July 6, 2012, and resulted in a net decrease of over eight hundred fifty million dollars in the Medicaid budget for the current state fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to this dramatic cut to Medicaid funding, the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) is addressing the shortfall by eliminating funding for state hospitals operated by the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College (LSU); and

WHEREAS, DHH has led the development of public-private partnerships for the delivery of health services at LSU hospital facilities operated by private healthcare enterprises, with the terms and conditions for such service delivery to be set forth in cooperative endeavor agreements among the state, LSU, and private providers; and

WHEREAS, the state, LSU, CHRISTUS St. Francis Cabrini Hospital and Rapides

1 Regional Medical Center have entered into a cooperative endeavor agreement to formalize
2 a collaboration to improve access to health care for citizens in the Alexandria and Pineville
3 area; and

4 WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes the need to maintain and continue proper
5 health care in the Alexandria and Pineville area, including inpatient, emergency, and
6 outpatient care; and

7 WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes that maintaining the existing graduate medical
8 education programs in central Louisiana is critically important to that region, and it is the
9 legislature's express desire that the parties to the cooperative endeavor agreement work
10 together to maintain graduate medical education programs in central Louisiana and maintain
11 or obtain funding for those programs when possible; and

12 WHEREAS, the Huey P. Long Medical Center currently maintains and operates
13 hospital beds for inpatient care and an active emergency department; and

14 WHEREAS, the cooperative endeavor agreement includes a provision to cease
15 inpatient care and emergency department services at the Huey P. Long Medical Center in
16 Pineville, Louisiana, which is currently operated by LSU; and

17 WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes, and the cooperative endeavor agreement
18 provides, that the inpatient and emergency department care currently provided at the Huey
19 P. Long Medical Center are available at CHRISTUS St. Francis Cabrini Hospital and
20 Rapides Regional Medical Center; and

21 WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes, and the cooperative endeavor agreement
22 provides, that the outpatient services currently provided at the Huey P. Long Medical Center
23 are being provided at new outpatient clinics operated by CHRISTUS St. Francis Cabrini
24 Hospital and Rapides Regional Medical Center; and

25 WHEREAS, in accordance with the cooperative endeavor agreement, CHRISTUS
26 St. Frances Cabrini Hospital and Rapides Regional Medical Center have increased access
27 to healthcare services available at their facilities in the Alexandria and Pineville region since
28 December 2013; and

29 WHEREAS, in December 2013, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital opened
30 a new medical clinic, coumadin clinic, cardiology clinic and pharmacy in Alexandria to meet

1 regional outpatient clinical needs; and

2 WHEREAS, in December 2013, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital opened
3 a new eighteen bed inpatient psychiatric patient unit in Alexandria to meet the needs of the
4 Alexandria and Pineville region; and

5 WHEREAS, in December 2013, Rapides Regional Medical Center opened an urgent
6 care and pharmacy services clinic in Alexandria; and

7 WHEREAS, in January 2014, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital opened a
8 gynecology clinic, a pediatric clinic, and a general surgery/orthopedic clinic in Alexandria;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, in January 2014, Rapides Regional Medical Center opened an urgent
11 care and multi specialty clinic on the current Pineville Huey P. Long Medical Center
12 campus; and

13 WHEREAS, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital, Rapides Regional Medical
14 Center, and Huey P. Long Medical Center leadership have worked in collaboration since
15 October 2013 to ensure patient healthcare needs are met during this transition and in the
16 future; and

17 WHEREAS, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital, Rapides Regional Medical
18 Center, and Huey P. Long Medical Center leadership have provided coordinated community
19 outreach through multiple patient notification letters, resource map guides which are updated
20 monthly, community HELP line, and several community meetings; and

21 WHEREAS, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital and Rapides Regional Medical
22 Center have committed to operating transitional clinics, which are currently open, and
23 building three permanent outpatient clinics, on which construction has already begun; and
24 WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes that the closure of the inpatient beds and the
25 emergency department services at Huey P. Long Medical Center requires authorization by
26 the legislature through a concurrent resolution, pursuant to R.S. 17:1518.1(F).

27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
28 express its approval of and support for the actions of the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana
29 State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College with regard to the delivery of
30 healthcare services in the Alexandria and Pineville region.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the continuing interest of patient safety, the
2 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its approval of and support for the closure of
3 the inpatient beds and the emergency department at the Huey P. Long Medical Center.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature expresses its appreciation for the
5 physicians, healthcare professionals, and staff of the Huey P. Long Medical Center who have
6 served the residents of the Alexandria and Pineville communities with dignity and caring
7 since 1938.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LSU Board of Supervisors and the division
9 of administration continue to work with the central Louisiana legislative delegation to find
10 the appropriate future use for the Huey P. Long facility.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution constitutes legislative approval,
12 in accordance with the requirements of R.S. 17:1518.1(F), for the closure of the inpatient
13 beds and the emergency department at the Huey P. Long Medical Center.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15 endorse and express support that the parties to the cooperative endeavor agreement work
16 together to maintain graduate medical education programs in central Louisiana and maintain
17 or obtain funding for those programs when possible.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
19 governor, the commissioner of administration, the secretary of the Department of Health and
20 Hospitals, and the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and
21 Agricultural and Mechanical College.

The original instrument was prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Christopher D. Adams.

DIGEST

Long

SCR No. 48

Expresses the legislative approval of and support to the Board of Supervisors of LSU for the strategic collaboration with the state relating to the closure of Huey P. Long Medical Center to facilitate a new model of health care delivery in the Alexandria and Pineville area.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to
the original bill

1. Recognizes the importance of maintaining of existing graduate medical education programs in central Louisiana and for the parties to the cooperative endeavor agreement to work together regarding those programs.
2. Makes technical corrections.