

1 WHEREAS, the term "telehealth" encompasses telemedicine as well as other health
2 services which can be provided remotely through communication technologies; and

3 WHEREAS, common examples of telehealth services in practice include primary
4 care, medical specialty consultations, behavioral health services, and home monitoring of
5 chronic disease; and

6 WHEREAS, telehealth services could potentially address a great unmet need for
7 health care by persons who have limited access to both traditional health care settings and
8 to telemedicine as currently defined in Louisiana law; and

9 WHEREAS, if our state is to achieve much needed improvement in health outcomes,
10 a prudent and responsible policy for doing so would be to balance patient safety and access
11 to care through expanding access by Louisianians to telehealth services.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
13 create the Task Force on Telehealth Access.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed the following
15 members:

16 (1) Two members appointed by the secretary of the Department of Health and
17 Hospitals, at least one of whom shall be an employee in the bureau of primary care and rural
18 health.

19 (2) The executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners or his
20 designee.

21 (3) A representative of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at
22 New Orleans.

23 (4) A representative of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at
24 Shreveport.

25 (5) A representative of the Tulane University School of Medicine.

26 (6) A representative of the Louisiana State Medical Society.

27 (7) A representative of the Louisiana Primary Care Association.

28 (8) A representative of the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum.

29 (9) A representative of the HomeCare Association of Louisiana.

30 (10) A representative of the Louisiana Hospital Association.

- 1 (11) A representative of the Louisiana Association of Health Plans.
- 2 (12) A representative of the Louisiana Cable and Telecommunications Association.
- 3 (13) A representative of the TexLa Telehealth Resource Center.
- 4 (14) A representative of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners.
- 5 (15) The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections or his
6 designee.
- 7 (16) A representative of Ochsner Health System.
- 8 (17) A representative of Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center.
- 9 (18) A representative of the Louisiana Rural Hospital Coalition, Inc.
- 10 (19) A representative of the Louisiana Ambulance Alliance.
- 11 (20) A representative of the Louisiana Nursing Home Association.
- 12 (21) A representative of the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Department of Health and
14 Hospitals shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure that the initial convening of the
15 task force occurs on or before September 1, 2014.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall select a chairman from
17 among its members.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve
19 without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be
20 individually entitled by their respective employer organizations.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the functions of the task force shall include all
22 of the following:

23 (1) Serve as an advisory body to the legislature and the Department of Health and
24 Hospitals on policies and practices that expand access to telehealth services in a manner that
25 ensures quality of care and patient safety.

26 (2) Serve as a coordinating forum on telehealth-related matters between and among
27 state agencies, local government, and other nongovernmental groups.

28 (3) Study technical aspects of delivery systems utilized in telehealth, and develop
29 basic standards based upon such study to recommend to the governor, the legislature, and

1 the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals concerning modalities and features
2 of telehealth delivery systems.

3 (4) On a regular basis, research and review state regulations, guidelines, policies,
4 and procedures that pertain in any way to telehealth and make policy recommendations to
5 the governor, the legislature, and the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before January 1, 2015, and semiannually
7 thereafter, the task force shall prepare and submit to the governor and the legislature a report
8 on the status of telehealth access in Louisiana.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on September 1,
10 2018.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
12 secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

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)]

Simon

HCR No. 88

Creates the Task Force on Telehealth Access as an advisory body to the legislature and DHH on policies and practices that expand access to telehealth services.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Increased number of members representing DHH from one to two and stipulated that at least one member be an employee in the bureau of primary care and rural health.
2. Added members representing the following groups to the task force in the number of one member per group:
 - (a) The Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners.
 - (b) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections.
 - (c) Ochsner Health System.
 - (d) Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center.
 - (e) The Louisiana Rural Hospital Coalition, Inc.
 - (f) The Louisiana Ambulance Alliance.

- (g) The Louisiana Nursing Home Association.
- 3. Among the enumerated functions of the task force, added a requirement that the task force study technical aspects of delivery systems utilized in telehealth, and develop basic standards based upon such study to recommend to the governor, the legislature, and the secretary of DHH concerning modalities and features of telehealth delivery systems.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

- 1. Added the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists as a task force member organization.
- 2. Specified that the secretary of DHH shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure that the initial convening of the task force occurs.
- 3. Added directive for the task force providing that it shall select a chairman from among its members.
- 4. Added provision stipulating that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled by their respective employer organizations.