

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 181

BY REPRESENTATIVE TALBOT

DRUGS/PRESCRIPTION: Urges and requests the Louisiana Department of Health to study the desirability and feasibility of adopting state policy to provide for review of prescription drug prices in the medical assistance program

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study the desirability and
3 feasibility of adopting a state policy to provide for the review of prescription drug
4 prices in the medical assistance program, known commonly as Medicaid.

5 WHEREAS, prices for prescription drugs have increased at a faster pace than other
6 medical costs in recent years; and

7 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human Services estimated
8 that prescription drugs accounted for over sixteen percent of the overall cost of personal
9 healthcare services Americans received in 2015; and

10 WHEREAS, the prices for certain prescription drugs that have been on the market
11 for years have seen recent increases that have prompted congressional inquiry; and

12 WHEREAS, drug prices in the aggregate in the United States are among the highest
13 in the world; and

14 WHEREAS, nine in ten Americans use prescription drugs, and three in four
15 Americans say drug prices are unreasonable; and

16 WHEREAS, nearly one in five Americans do not fill a prescription each year because
17 they cannot afford it; and

18 WHEREAS, prescription drugs are the single fastest-growing component of
19 employer-sponsored insurance costs, accounting for seventeen percent of total healthcare
20 spending in 2016; and

1 WHEREAS, rising prescription drug prices have affected both Louisiana residents
2 who purchase prescription drugs and public healthcare programs that pay for prescription
3 drugs; and

4 WHEREAS, among the Louisiana residents who are most reliant on prescription
5 drugs are senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and individuals with chronic diseases;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, many residents may be reluctantly adopting the unhealthy and
8 potentially dangerous practice of reducing their physician-prescribed prescription drug
9 dosages; and

10 WHEREAS, rising prices for prescription drugs combined with an increase in patient
11 cost-sharing, including copays, coinsurance, and deductibles, decreases the likelihood of
12 adherence, resulting in worse health outcomes for patients and wasteful spending; and

13 WHEREAS, providing for affordable access to medically necessary prescription
14 drugs will lower healthcare costs; and

15 WHEREAS, the state of New York recently adopted a policy authorizing, when total
16 Medicaid drug expenditures are projected to exceed the state's annual growth limitation, the
17 referral of prescription drugs to a drug utilization review board for a recommendation as to
18 whether a target supplemental Medicaid rebate should be paid to the state by the
19 manufacturer of the drug and the target amount of the rebate; and

20 WHEREAS, the pricing of prescription drugs impacts state Medicaid budgets,
21 Medicare spending, insurance premiums and prescription drug tiers, and, most importantly,
22 patient access to these medications and medication adherence.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
24 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health
25 to study the desirability and feasibility of adopting a state policy to provide for the review
26 of prescription drug prices in the medical assistance program, known commonly as
27 Medicaid.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health, in
29 conducting the study requested by this Resolution, shall specifically determine the
30 desirability and feasibility of implementing a policy similar to the recently enacted policy

1 of the state of New York to encourage drug manufacturers to provide supplemental Medicaid
2 rebates.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall submit
4 a report of its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation if necessary,
5 to the House Committee on Health and Welfare no later than sixty days prior to the
6 convening of the 2018 Regular Legislative Session.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted
8 to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

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)]

HR 181 Original

2017 Regular Session

Talbot

Requests the La. Dept. of Health to study the desirability and feasibility of adopting rules to provide for review of prescription drug prices in the medical assistance program.