

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 71

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUSTIN MILLER

SUBSTANCE ABUSE: Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to issue regulations to allow the establishment of new opioid treatment programs and methadone dosing sites

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to issue regulations by December
3 31, 2020, to allow the establishment of new opioid treatment programs and
4 methadone dosing sites.

5 WHEREAS, a more robust comprehensive treatment system is needed, to help
6 individuals with substance use disorder get the treatment they need through opioid treatment
7 programs and methadone dosing sites; and

8 WHEREAS, the number of opioid-related deaths in Louisiana was one hundred and
9 fifty percent higher in 2017 than in 2012; and

10 WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2018, Louisianans spent seven thousand eight hundred
11 eighty-six days in emergency departments for incidents related to opioids, with related
12 Medicaid costs exceeding one million eight hundred thousand dollars; and

13 WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2018, Louisiana saw nine thousand eight hundred thirty-
14 four hospital admissions related to opioids, with related Medicaid costs exceeding thirty-nine
15 million seven hundred thousand dollars; and

WHEREAS, the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has recognized that medication-assisted treatment of opioid use disorder, in combination with counseling and behavior therapies, can successfully treat opioid use disorder and help sustain recovery; and

1 WHEREAS, SAMHSA has developed an accreditation for opioid treatment programs
2 to provide medication-assisted treatment, as well as a range of other treatments; and

3 WHEREAS, a panel of experts convened to study the opioid epidemic in Louisiana
4 recommended in December 2018 that Louisiana undertake the following steps, among
5 others, to address opioid addiction in Louisiana:

6 (1) Expand access to evidenced-based treatment for opioid addition.

7 (2) Establish a statewide quality improvement system for addiction treatment.

8 (3) Address addiction as a chronic illness.

9 (4) Expand the use of peer recovery specialists for those with opioid use disorder.

10 (5) Invest in models of care to support women and families; and

11 WHEREAS, individuals in rural parishes do not have adequate access to medication-
12 assisted treatment for substance use disorder.

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
14 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to issue regulations to allow the
15 establishment of new opioid treatment programs and methadone dosing sites.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in considering the expansion of new opioid
17 treatment programs, the Louisiana Department of Health shall consider all of the following:

18 (1) Developing an application process for new opioid treatment programs that
19 prioritizes the expansion of organizations already operating opioid treatment programs in
20 the state and in good standing with the office of behavioral health, and the integration of new
21 sites with federally qualified health centers and health systems.

22 (2) Providing new opioid treatment programs that offer all three Food and Drug
23 Administration-approved medications for opioid use disorder, obtain certification as a
24 Medicaid provider, and deliver services to patients covered under the Medicaid program.

25 (3) Creating an application process and necessary regulations for the establishment
26 of medication units to expand the availability of methadone; engaging with local governing
27 entities, opioid treatment programs, federally qualified health centers, and health systems
28 to establish these dosing sites. Rural parishes with higher rates of overdose deaths should
29 be considered for these dosing sites.

1 (4) Entering into partnerships with providers offering physical health services, such
2 as federally qualified health centers or health systems, either by direct integration with these
3 facilities, co-location or providing physical health services within the opioid treatment
4 program. These partnerships should prioritize the screening and treatment of comorbid
5 conditions, such as Hepatitis C and HIV.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these new regulations for opioid treatment
7 programs be issued by the Louisiana Department of Health by December 31, 2020.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health issue an
9 annual report to monitor the progress of this new opioid treatment program expansion,
10 including the number of Medicaid patients served at the opioid treatment programs and
11 other measures of success.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
13 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)]

HCR 71 Original

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