SLS 19RS-789 ENGROSSED

2019 Regular Session

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 70

BY SENATOR BARROW

HEALTH DEPARTMENT. Creates the Louisiana Community Health Worker Workforce Study Committee.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create the Louisiana Community Health Worker Workforce Study Committee to study and provide recommendations to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health relative to supporting and expanding the community health worker workforce in Louisiana. WHEREAS, community health workers (CHW) are an emerging group of healthcare professionals who, according to the American Public Health Association (APHA), serve as frontline public health workers who are trusted members of their community with a unique understanding of the needs of the community they serve. This trusting relationship enables these workers to serve as a liaison, link, or intermediary between health, social services, and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery. A CHW also builds individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support, and advocacy; and WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that CHWs can improve health outcomes, reduce costs of healthcare, and address social determinants of health by collaborating with healthcare, public health, and social services systems; and

1 at the state level, and Louisiana has not previously examined the CHW workforce; and 2 WHEREAS, national recommendations for CHW workforce development include 3 convening stakeholder groups comprised of a majority of CHWs. 4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Louisiana Community Health Worker Workforce Study Committee to study and 5 provide recommendations to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health relative 6 7 to supporting and expanding the community health worker workforce in Louisiana. 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall be initially established 9 with twenty-three members, twelve of which shall be CHWs. Additional members may be 10 added at the discretion of the cochairman, but in accordance with APHA policy, CHWs shall 11 always comprise the majority of the members. 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the initial composition of the study committee 13 shall be as follows: 14 (1) The director of CHW programs at Louisiana State University Health Sciences 15 Center of New Orleans, or his designee, who shall serve as the cochairman of the study 16 committee. (2) The dean of the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical 17 18 Medicine, or his designee. 19 (3) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, or his designee, who shall 20 have expertise in community partnerships and health equity. 21 (4) The Louisiana Medicaid director, or his designee, who shall have expertise in clinical innovation. 22 23 (5) The assistant secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, office of public 24 health, or his designee. 25 (6) The executive director of the Louisiana Primary Care Association, or his designee. 26 27 (7) A representative of the governor's workforce initiative, appointed by the 28 governor. (8) The executive director of Taking Aim at Cancer in Louisiana, or his designee. 29 30 (9) The chairman of the Louisiana Community Health Outreach Network, or his

1 designee who shall represent non-CHWs and shall serve as cochairman of the study 2 committee. 3 (10) A representative who practices as a doula who shall represent non-CHWs and 4 who shall be appointed by the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health. (11) Ten CHWs representing the Louisiana Department of Health's ten geographical 5 local governing entity regions who shall be appointed by the cochairmen. 6 7 (12) A representative of the Louisiana Medicaid MCO Association. 8 (13) The President of the Senate, or his designee. 9 (14) The Speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee. 10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the study committee shall serve 11 at the pleasure of their appointing authority and shall serve without compensation. 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall submit a written 13 report to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health on or before March 1, 2020, 14 with findings and recommendations on the following: (1) The definition of CHW to be used in Louisiana. 15 (2) Core skills, roles, scope of practice, and competencies for CHWs. 16 (3) Expanding CHW training infrastructure. 17 18 (4) Strategies for enhancing employer readiness for hiring CHWs. 19 (5) Tracking CHW employment in Louisiana. (6) Sustainable methods for financing reimbursement for CHW services. 20 21 (7) Whether certification of CHWs is necessary in Louisiana, based on input from 22 a study of Louisiana CHWs, and if certification is necessary, recommendations for a process 23 to develop certification standards, eligibility requirements, and plans for financing and 24 administering certification. 25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health shall provide staff support for the study committee and shall call the first meeting of 26 27 the study committee no later than July 1, 2019. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall meet no less than six 28 29 times prior to issuing its report to the secretary. All meetings shall occur in person and shall

be public meetings; however, committee members shall have the option to participate in

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meetings via teleconference.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the director of CHW programs at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center of New Orleans, the dean of the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, the deputy director of the Louisiana Department of Health community partnerships - health equity program, the Medicaid clinical innovation officer, the assistant secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, office of public health, the executive director of the Louisiana Primary Care Association, the governor, the executive director of Taking Aim at Cancer in Louisiana, the chairman of the Louisiana Community Health Outreach Network, and the president of the Louisiana Medicaid MCO Association.

The original instrument was prepared by Christine Arbo Peck. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Ann S. Brown.

DIGEST

SCR 70 Engrossed

2019 Regular Session

Barrow

Creates the Louisiana Community Health Worker Workforce Study Committee to study and provide recommendations to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health relative to supporting and expanding the community health worker workforce in Louisiana.

Provides for a minimum of six meetings, the first of which shall be on or before July 1, 2019, and a report which shall be submitted on or before March 1, 2020.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to original bill

- 1. Adds the following three members to the study committee:
 - (1) President of Senate or his designee.
 - (2) Speaker of the House of Representatives or his designee.
 - (3) A representative of the Louisiana Medicaid MCO Association.
- 2. Makes technical corrections.