

2019 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 179

BY SENATOR RISER

MEDICAID. Requests the legislative auditor to review and report on the 1,692 Medicaid recipients who reported income in excess of \$100,000 on their 2017 calendar year income tax returns.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the legislative auditor to review and report on the one thousand six  
3 hundred ninety-two Medicaid recipients who reported income in excess of one  
4 hundred thousand dollars on their 2017 calendar year income tax return.

5 WHEREAS, spending on the medical assistance program operated pursuant to Title  
6 XIX of the Social Security Act, referred to in this Resolution as the "state Medicaid  
7 program", comprises approximately forty percent of the total state budget, and provides  
8 healthcare coverage for approximately thirty-five percent of the citizens in the state of  
9 Louisiana; and

10 WHEREAS, cost containment in the state Medicaid program is an urgent priority of  
11 this state as any wasted dollars take away money from what can be used to enhance other  
12 needed healthcare services; and

13 WHEREAS, it is vital to prevent fraud and abuse committed by any healthcare  
14 provider and by any other person participating in the state Medicaid program, including  
15 Medicaid enrollees, and to negate the adverse effects of Medicaid fraud and abuse on the  
16 fiscal integrity and public health of this state as part of cost containment efforts; and

17 WHEREAS, the federal government, through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid  
18 Services, sets strict eligibility criteria that participants must meet in order to be enrolled in

1 the state Medicaid program, including income limits based on household size and federal  
2 poverty levels; and

3 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Revenue found that nearly eighty-four  
4 thousand Medicaid enrollees had income that could disqualify them from participating in the  
5 state Medicaid program; and

6 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Revenue further identified one thousand  
7 six hundred ninety-two enrollees who reported income of more than one hundred thousand  
8 dollars on their 2017 calendar year income tax returns; and

9 WHEREAS, the legislative auditor issued a report in November 2018, *Medicaid*  
10 *Eligibility: Wage Verification Process of the Expansion Population*, noting likely improper  
11 payments for ineligible Medicaid enrollees totaling up to eighty-five and one half million  
12 dollars, and another report in December 2018, *Medicaid Eligibility: Modified Gross Income*  
13 *Determination Process*, noted ineligible Medicaid enrollees and possible annual cost savings  
14 of up to one hundred eleven million dollars if processes were strengthened and errors were  
15 eliminated.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
17 does hereby urge and request the legislative auditor to review and report on those Medicaid  
18 enrollees who reported income in excess of one hundred thousand dollars on their 2017  
19 calendar year income tax returns.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health will provide  
21 assistance to the legislative auditor during these reviews.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative auditor communicate findings to  
23 the Louisiana Department of Health so the department can use this information in its  
24 eligibility redetermination process.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
26 Louisiana Department of Health and the legislative auditor.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

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SR 179 Original	DIGEST 2019 Regular Session	Riser
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