HLS 201ES-223 ORIGINAL

2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD

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HEALTH/LDH: Directs the La. Department of Health to implement certain policies for the health and safety of long-term care facility residents

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To direct the Louisiana Department of Health to implement certain policies to protect the
3	health and safety of long-term care facility residents and to establish and administer
4	a statewide long-term care emergency response task force.
5	WHEREAS, the ongoing global outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel
6	coronavirus and named "coronavirus disease 2019", abbreviated as "COVID-19", has been
7	recognized as a pandemic since March 11, 2020; and
8	WHEREAS, according to data supplied by the Louisiana Department of Health, the
9	average age of victims of the COVID-19 pandemic in Louisiana is seventy-five; and
10	WHEREAS, as of the date of filing of this Resolution, Louisiana has registered
11	nearly two thousand nine hundred officially reported deaths from COVID-19; and
12	WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has created additional challenges for people
13	living with dementia, particularly those in long-term care settings, as well as their families
14	and caregivers; and
15	WHEREAS, long-term care facility residents with Alzheimer's and other dementias
16	are particularly susceptible to COVID-19 due to their typical age, their significantly
17	increased likelihood of coexisting chronic conditions, and the congregate nature of these
18	settings; and
19	WHEREAS, approximately ninety-two thousand people over the age of sixty-five
20	in Louisiana are currently living with Alzheimer's; and

1	WHEREAS, nationwide, forty-eight percent of nursing home residents are living
2	with dementia and forty-two percent of persons residing in residential care homes and other
3	assisted living facilities have Alzheimer's or another dementia; and
4	WHEREAS, nursing homes and assisted living communities are on the front lines
5	of the COVID-19 crisis; and
6	WHEREAS, across the country, these facilities, their staff, and their residents are
7	experiencing a crisis due to a lack of transparency, an inability to access necessary testing,
8	inaccurate reporting, and other factors; and
9	WHEREAS, one-third of Louisiana's COVID-19 deaths have occurred in long-term
10	care facilities; and
11	WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health licenses and regulates nursing
12	facilities pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 40:2009.1 through 2011; and
13	WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 40:2166.1 et seq., the Louisiana
14	Department of Health also licenses and regulates adult residential care homes and providers,
15	which are commonly known as assisted living facilities; and
16	WHEREAS, nursing facilities and adult residential care homes and providers are
17	referred to collectively as long-term care facilities.
18	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
19	direct the Louisiana Department of Health, referred to hereafter in this Resolution as the
20	"department", to implement all of the following policies and mandates with respect to the
21	long-term care facilities that it licenses and regulates:
22	(1) Each nursing home, adult residential care home, and adult residential care
23	provider shall establish and implement a protocol to use testing to verify that all residents,
24	staff, and visitors are free of COVID-19 infection, whether or not they are symptomatic. All
25	such long-term care facilities shall report positive diagnoses of COVID-19 to the department
26	within twenty-four hours, update previously reported cases at least weekly, and proactively
27	notify family members and any designated persons of changes.
28	(2) The department shall maintain a web platform that contains COVID-19 data
29	from all long-term care facilities which is searchable down to the facility level to make
30	de-identified data available immediately upon reporting.

1	(3) The department shall establish a protocol for steps that each long-term care
2	facility must take once a resident or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and shall
3	require that this protocol be implemented by the facility.
4	(4) The department shall establish an isolation protocol for long-term care facility
5	residents who test positive for COVID-19 for the purpose of keeping uninfected persons
6	from sharing rooms with persons who are infected with the disease.
7	(5) The department shall issue a care coordination protocol to guide long-term care
8	facilities and hospitals, respectively, during the transition between care settings in instances
9	when a long-term care facility resident must be moved from his residence to an acute care
10	setting.
11	(6) The department shall disseminate essential dementia care standards to aid
12	provisional staff in the delivery of person-centered dementia care.
13	(7) The department shall implement the use of personal information forms for each
14	resident to allow all staff to quickly identify essential information about the person to help
15	maintain a stable and comforting environment.
16	(8) The department shall require that long-term care facilities address social isolation
17	and ensure that people with dementia are able to communicate with designated family and
18	friends.
19	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct
20	the department to establish and administer a statewide long-term care emergency response
21	task force composed of representatives of nursing homes, assisted living communities,
22	patient advocacy organizations, and select department staff to coordinate with all key
23	stakeholders and the office of the governor in order to identify pressing issues and
24	implement solutions.
25	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force established pursuant to this
26	Resolution shall report findings and recommendations concerning protection of the health
27	and safety of long-term care facility residents to the governor, each member of the
28	Legislature of Louisiana, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library prior to the
29	convening of the 2021 Regular Session of the legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

2 governor and 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)]

HCR 13 Original

2020 First Extraordinary Session

Willard

Directs the La. Department of Health to implement certain policies to protect the health and safety of long-term care facility residents and to establish and administer a statewide long-term care emergency response task force. Directs the task force to report findings and recommendations concerning protection of the health and safety of long-term care facility residents to the governor and the legislature prior to the convening of the 2021 R.S.