

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 14

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

MEDICAID MANAGED CARE: Requests a study and report on nonemergency medical transportation in the Medicaid managed care program

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study certain aspects of
3 nonemergency medical transportation provided within the Medicaid managed care
4 program of this state and to report findings from the study to the House Committee
5 on Health and Welfare.

6 WHEREAS, during the global outbreak of the infectious respiratory disease known
7 as COVID-19 which became a declared public health emergency in Louisiana in March of
8 2020, many citizens of this state would have benefited from access to nonemergency medical
9 transportation (NEMT) services offering individualized options and opportunities for safe
10 transportation in environments that minimize the risk of exposure to infectious disease; and

11 WHEREAS, transportation network companies are ideal providers of services that
12 protect and promote public health by facilitating access to primary care, pharmacy services,
13 and other forms of health care that help people maintain and improve their health; and

14 WHEREAS, primary care is a vital component of every healthcare system and is
15 essential for improving and maintaining the health of any population; and

16 WHEREAS, helping people to keep appointments with their primary care providers
17 and adhere to medication regimens promotes their health and well-being; and

18 WHEREAS, allowing transportation network companies to furnish NEMT services
19 to Medicaid enrollees would improve the accessibility of health services for a large portion
20 of Louisiana's population as well as produce substantial cost savings for our state; and

1 WHEREAS, exploring innovative solutions for reducing Medicaid costs while
2 protecting and promoting the health of Medicaid enrollees is in the best interest of this state;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the Medicaid managed care program known as Healthy Louisiana now
5 serves nearly all of the one million, six hundred fifty thousand Medicaid enrollees of this
6 state.

7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
8 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health
9 to conduct a study of the following aspects of, and relating to, nonemergency medical
10 transportation provided within the Medicaid managed care program:

11 (1) The frequency of Medicaid enrollees missing appointments for healthcare
12 services, along with the factors that cause this problem and the health effects among this
13 population resulting from missed appointments.

14 (2) Potential benefits of having new providers, including transportation network
15 companies, in Louisiana's Medicaid nonemergency medical transportation system. In
16 conducting this component of the study, the department shall examine the Medicaid
17 programs of Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Missouri, Tennessee, and Virginia within which
18 transportation network companies currently provide nonemergency medical transportation.

19 (3) Issues that nonemergency medical transportation providers have experienced in
20 working with the transportation brokers that the Medicaid managed care organizations of this
21 state employ and concerns relating to these brokers, along with actions that the department
22 could take, or has taken, to address these provider concerns. In conducting this component
23 of the study, the department shall develop a recommendation for what the optimal number
24 of such transportation brokers would be for the Healthy Louisiana managed care program.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study called for in this
26 Resolution, the Louisiana Department of Health shall actively engage and solicit input from
27 physicians and other licensed health professionals who are enrolled as providers in the
28 Medicaid managed care program.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall issue
30 findings from the study called for in this Resolution in the form of a report to the House

1 Committee on Health and Welfare prior to the convening of the 2021 Regular Session of the
2 Legislature of Louisiana.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
4 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)]

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Requests the La. Department of Health to conduct a study of the following aspects of, and relating to, nonemergency medical transportation (NEMT) provided within the state's Medicaid managed care program:

- (1) The frequency of Medicaid enrollees missing appointments for healthcare services, along with the factors that cause this problem and the health effects among this population resulting from missed appointments.
- (2) Potential benefits of having new providers, including transportation network companies, in Louisiana's Medicaid NEMT system.
- (3) Issues that NEMT providers have experienced in working with the transportation brokers that the Medicaid managed care organizations of this state employ and concerns relating to these brokers, along with actions that the department could take, or has taken, to address these provider concerns.

Requests the department to issue findings from the study in the form of a report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare prior to the convening of the 2021 R.S.