



1 system to be privatized, and by extensive debate concerning the state health system in every  
2 session since 2010, the legislature has expressed deep concern about the fiscal and public  
3 health consequences of hospital privatization since the outset of the privatization efforts; and

4 WHEREAS, the executive budget for the state proposed for state fiscal year  
5 2015-2016 lacked sufficient funds for Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, the  
6 private partner now responsible for the indigent care and physician training services that had  
7 formerly been delivered at Earl K. Long, to continue delivering the services which it is  
8 obligated to provide pursuant to its cooperative endeavor agreement with the state; and

9 WHEREAS, after the 2015-2016 executive budget was issued, officials with Our  
10 Lady of the Lake determined that the seven million four hundred thousand dollar shortfall  
11 in public funding it faced originally for provision of publicly-required services had doubled  
12 to approximately fifteen million dollars due to increased emergency department utilization  
13 resulting from the closure of the Baton Rouge General Mid-City emergency department; and

14 WHEREAS, supply of, and demand for, medical care in the capital region have  
15 become increasingly misaligned in recent years; and

16 WHEREAS, these circumstances are of serious concern to policymakers at the city,  
17 regional, and state levels; and

18 WHEREAS, a task force to study health services delivery and financing in the Baton  
19 Rouge region was created by House Concurrent Resolution No. 129 of the 2015 Regular  
20 Session of the Legislature and continued by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4 of the 2016  
21 Regular Session of the Legislature, and Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 122 of the 2018  
22 Regular Session of the Legislature; and

23 WHEREAS, the legislative authority for the task force terminated on December 31,  
24 2019; however, the efforts of this task force are vitally important at present and will remain  
25 so in the near-term.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
27 recreate and continue the work of the task force to study and make recommendations  
28 concerning health services delivery and financing in the Baton Rouge region.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the  
30 following members:

- 1 (1) The mayor-president of East Baton Rouge Parish or his designee.
- 2 (2) The chief executive officer of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation or his designee.
- 3 (3) Two members representing the Capital Region Legislative Delegation.
- 4 (4) The chief executive officer of Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center
- 5 or his designee.
- 6 (5) The chief executive officer of the Baton Rouge General Health System or his
- 7 designee.
- 8 (6) The chief executive officer of Lane Regional Medical Center or his designee.
- 9 (7) The chief executive officer of Ochsner Health System or his designee.
- 10 (8) The coroner of East Baton Rouge Parish or his designee.
- 11 (9) The administrator of East Baton Rouge Parish Emergency Medical Services or
- 12 his designee.
- 13 (10) The chief executive officer of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber or his designee.
- 14 (11) The president of the Louisiana AFL-CIO or his designee.
- 15 (12) The lead organizer of Together Baton Rouge or his designee.
- 16 (13) The president of the Capital Area Medical Society or his designee.
- 17 (14) One member representing the Campaign for Healthcare for Everyone -
- 18 Louisiana.
- 19 (15) The president of the Louisiana Center for Health Equity or his designee.
- 20 (16) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.
- 21 (17) The director of the Louisiana Budget Project or his designee.
- 22 (18) The chairman of the board of directors of Woman's Hospital Foundation or his
- 23 designee.
- 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall examine issues related to
- 25 health services delivery and financing in the Baton Rouge region including, without
- 26 limitation, the following:
- 27 (1) Barriers to access to health care faced by low- to moderate-income persons.
- 28 (2) Impacts of cuts to federal disproportionate share hospital funding and Louisiana's
- 29 expansion of Medicaid in 2016 on patient access to health services.
- 30 (3) Effects on public health of the closure of the state-operated public hospital in

1 Baton Rouge and privatization of the services formerly delivered there.

2 (4) Impacts on private hospitals which do not operate under a cooperative endeavor  
3 agreement with the state of providing uncompensated care.

4 (5) Policies which could expand the capacity of public and private urgent care clinics  
5 to meet the health care needs of medically underserved populations.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at its initial meeting, the task force members  
7 shall elect a chairperson and shall adopt rules of procedure and any other policies as may be  
8 necessary to facilitate the work of the task force.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit an initial report to the  
10 senate and house committees on health and welfare on or before December 31, 2021,  
11 outlining the work and recommendations of the task force to date and providing a plan for  
12 ongoing study of the issue of health services delivery and financing in the Baton Rouge  
13 region.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a final report to the  
15 senate and house committees on health and welfare on or before the termination date of the  
16 task force on December 31, 2022, with final recommendations of the task force regarding  
17 the issue of health services delivery and financing in the Baton Rouge region.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative authority for the task force shall  
19 continue through December 31, 2022.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
21 mayor-president of East Baton Rouge Parish, the chief executive officer of the Baton Rouge  
22 Area Foundation, the chief executive officer of Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical  
23 Center, the chief executive officer of the Baton Rouge General Health System, the chief  
24 executive officer of Lane Regional Medical Center, the chief executive officer of Ochsner  
25 Health System, the coroner of East Baton Rouge Parish, the administrator of East Baton  
26 Rouge Parish Emergency Medical Services, the chief executive officer of the Baton Rouge  
27 Area Chamber, the president of the Louisiana AFL-CIO, the lead organizer of Together  
28 Baton Rouge, the president of the Capital Area Medical Society, the president of the  
29 Campaign for Healthcare for Everyone - Louisiana, the president of the Louisiana Center for  
30 Health Equity, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the director of the

- 1 Louisiana Budget Project, and the chairman of the board of directors of Woman's Hospital  
2 Foundation.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Brandi Cannon.

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DIGEST

SCR 32 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

Barrow

Re-creates and continues the work of the task force to study health services delivery and financing in the Baton Rouge region.