

2026 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 181

BY SENATOR FOIL

HEALTH CARE. Requests the Department of Health to establish the Louisiana Tumor Registry Expansion and Data Modernization Task Force.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to establish the Tumor Registry  
3 Expansion and Data Modernization Task Force to study and develop  
4 recommendations for expanding and modernizing the Louisiana Tumor Registry  
5 through enhanced electronic health record interoperability, real-time cancer  
6 surveillance capabilities, expanded cancer-related data collection, and statewide  
7 collaboration among healthcare organizations.

8 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Tumor Registry (LTR) is the legislatively-mandated,  
9 statewide, population-based cancer registry responsible for collecting data on all cancer  
10 patients diagnosed in Louisiana; and

11 WHEREAS, the LTR currently captures more than twenty-eight thousand cancer  
12 cases annually and covers all sixty-four parishes of the state; and

13 WHEREAS, the LTR has achieved national recognition through National Cancer  
14 Institute Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program honors, North  
15 American Association of Central Cancer Registries Gold Certification, and designation as  
16 a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Registry of Excellence; and

17 WHEREAS, timely, comprehensive, and actionable cancer data is essential to  
18 improving cancer prevention, treatment, survivorship, population health outcomes,

1 healthcare access, research initiatives, and health equity efforts throughout Louisiana; and

2 WHEREAS, current cancer data collection remains heavily dependent upon manual  
3 abstraction methods that require significant time and workforce resources and often results  
4 in delays of two to three years before complete statewide data is available; and

5 WHEREAS, expanded and real-time access to cancer-related data from electronic  
6 health records would improve the ability of health care providers, researchers, policymakers,  
7 and public health officials to identify gaps in care, treatment deserts, disparities in access,  
8 and opportunities for earlier intervention; and

9 WHEREAS, greater interoperability among healthcare organizations and electronic  
10 medical record systems would improve clinical trial access, support quality improvement  
11 initiatives, facilitate rapid reporting, and strengthen Louisiana's statewide cancer surveillance  
12 infrastructure; and

13 WHEREAS, a coordinated statewide effort involving healthcare organizations,  
14 academic institutions, cancer centers, technology experts, registry professionals, clinicians,  
15 and public health leaders is necessary to develop standardized abstraction parameters,  
16 interoperability standards, data governance structures, and implementation recommendations  
17 for expansion of the Louisiana Tumor Registry.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
19 does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to establish the Tumor  
20 Registry Expansion and Data Modernization Task Force to study and develop  
21 recommendations for expanding and modernizing the Louisiana Tumor Registry through  
22 enhanced electronic health record interoperability, real-time cancer surveillance capabilities,  
23 expanded cancer-related data collection, and statewide collaboration among healthcare  
24 organizations.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of eleven  
26 members selected by the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health as follows:

27 (1) One member shall be the director of the Louisiana Tumor Registry.

28 (2) One member shall be a representative from the Louisiana Senate with expertise  
29 in healthcare technology or public health care to be appointed by the president of the Senate.

30 (3) The Louisiana State Chair of the American College of Surgeons Commission on

1 Cancer.

2 (4) Eight members shall be selected by the secretary of the Louisiana Department of  
3 Health from among the following groups: a Louisiana based oncologist who is a member of  
4 the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer, the Louisiana Hospital  
5 Association, the Louisiana Cancer Prevention and Control Programs, the Louisiana Cancer  
6 Research Center, the Louisiana Cancer Registrars Association, the Louisiana State Nurses  
7 Association, the Louisiana Oncology Society, a member or an individual endorsed by the  
8 Louisiana chapter of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society  
9 (HIMSS), a representative from healthcare systems utilizing non-Epic electronic health  
10 record platforms, the Rural Hospital Coalition of Louisiana, a representative of the Louisiana  
11 Primary Care Association from a federally qualified health center, FMOL Health,  
12 Ochsner/Benson Cancer Center, LSU-LCMC Health Cancer Center, Mary Bird Perkins  
13 Cancer Center, Willis Knighton Cancer Center, or a patient advocate representing cancer  
14 survivors.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be chaired by the Louisiana  
16 State Chair of the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer or a  
17 Louisiana-based oncologist who is a member of the American College of Surgeons  
18 Commission on Cancer, as selected by the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the duties of the task force shall include but not  
20 be limited to all of the following:

21 (1) Studying opportunities to expand the Louisiana Tumor Registry through secure  
22 access to electronic health records statewide.

23 (2) Developing recommendations for infrastructure, data definitions, abstraction  
24 parameters, data governance, cybersecurity, privacy protections, and workforce needs.

25 (3) Creating recommendations regarding a sustainable modernization plan including  
26 funding, pilot programs, statewide expansion, and a potential national best-practice model.

27 (4) Identifying gaps in cancer care access, including treatment deserts and clinical  
28 trial availability.

29 (5) Evaluating methods to enhance patient access to cancer clinical trials through  
30 improved statewide data sharing.

