

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 181

BY SENATOR FOIL

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, timely, comprehensive, and actionable cancer data is essential to improving cancer prevention, treatment, survivorship, population health outcomes, healthcare access, research initiatives, and health equity efforts throughout Louisiana; and

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

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

WHEREAS, greater interoperability among healthcare organizations and electronic medical record systems would improve clinical trial access, support quality improvement

initiatives, facilitate rapid reporting, and strengthen Louisiana's statewide cancer surveillance infrastructure; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

(4) Eight members shall be selected by the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health from among the following groups: a Louisiana based oncologist who is a member of the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer, the Louisiana Hospital Association, the Louisiana Cancer Prevention and Control Programs, the Louisiana Cancer Research Center, the Louisiana Cancer Registrars Association, the Louisiana State Nurses Association, the Louisiana Oncology Society, a member or an individual endorsed by the Louisiana chapter of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), a representative from healthcare systems utilizing non-Epic electronic health record platforms, the Rural Hospital Coalition of Louisiana, a representative of the Louisiana

Primary Care Association from a federally qualified health center, FMOL Health, Ochsner/Benson Cancer Center, LSU-LCMC Health Cancer Center, Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center, Willis Knighton Cancer Center, or a patient advocate representing cancer survivors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all state departments, agencies, boards, and commissions shall cooperate with the task force and provide information and assistance as requested.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall provide staff and reasonable resources to support to the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may meet as often as necessary and shall submit a written report of its findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on or before February 1, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on the date of submission of its report or February 1, 2027, whichever occurs first.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the director of the Louisiana Tumor Registry, and John M. Lyons, III, MD, State Chair for Louisiana Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery, LSU Department of Surgery.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE