HLS 11RS-616 **ORIGINAL**

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19

BY REPRESENTATIVE CORTEZ

HEALTH/DHH: Urges and requests DHH to minimize the use of complete social security numbers of its clients and to report an assessment of client data security to the House and Senate health and welfare committees

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals to minimize the use of complete social security numbers of its clients, to assess the overall security of client identifying information, and to report findings of this assessment to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

WHEREAS, the security and confidentiality of personal data maintained by institutions is a major public concern; and

WHEREAS, criminal uses of stolen identifying information include but are not limited to draining the bank accounts of the victim; purchasing firearms in the name of the victim; and obtaining credit cards, loans, and a driver's license in the name of the victim; and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Victims of Crime reports that approximately ten million Americans become victims of identity theft each year; and that collectively, these victims spend two hundred ninety-seven million hours annually resolving problems caused by the theft of their identity; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals presently maintains identifying information on approximately one million two hundred thousand persons who receive services through the department; and

WHEREAS, the department has recently experienced breaches in data security which resulted in persons gaining unauthorized access to identifying information; and

WHEREAS, effective measures to prevent identity theft include not only electronic database security but simple practices such as limiting nonessential recording and transmission of identifying information such as social security numbers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals to minimize the use of complete social security numbers of its clients in order to reduce the risk of identity theft; and to assess the overall security of client identifying information maintained at the department, with a particular focus on programs and instances in which partial social security numbers could be substituted for entire social security numbers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall report the findings of such security assessment in the form of a written report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on or before December 31, 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

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)]

Cortez HCR No. 19

Urges and requests the La. Dept. of Health and Hospitals to minimize the use of complete social security numbers of its clients, to assess the overall security of client identifying information, and to report findings of this assessment to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare on or before Dec. 31, 2011.