

Regular Session, 2011

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40

BY SENATOR CHEEK

HEALTH/HOSPITALS DEPT. Requests the Department of Health and Hospitals and the Louisiana Ambulance Alliance to work in collaboration through the Emergency Medical Services Professional Working Group to meet certain goals and to report to the Senate and House committees on health and welfare by February 1, 2012.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals and the Louisiana Ambulance Alliance to work in collaboration through the Emergency Medical Services Professional Working Group to meet certain goals and to report to the Senate and House committees on health and welfare by February 1, 2012.

WHEREAS, it is of the utmost importance that the state of Louisiana foster and maintain strong emergency services and emergency services professionals who are able to work collaboratively in order to successfully address emergency response, emergency preparedness, and emergency services; and

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate a strong and vibrant emergency medical services system and professionals, it is imperative that there are clear and easily understandable regulations governing the emergency medical services system and profession; and

WHEREAS, in enacting R.S. 40:123 et seq., this legislature found that the Department of Health and Hospitals, office of public health, bureau of emergency medical services, constitutes an invaluable part of the healthcare delivery system of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, it is important that nationally required changes to regulations governing emergency medical services are incorporated into the Louisiana Revised Statutes before January 1, 2014; and

1 WHEREAS, with emergency services delivery and emergency preparedness planning
2 challenges in the state only increasing, the emergency medical system must move away from
3 the traditional structures and develop integrated and collaborative service delivery methods
4 which seek to maximize, while still maintaining the highest degree of competency by which
5 emergency medical services are provided to the citizens of this state; and WHEREAS, it is
6 essential that the solutions to these challenges be developed through a thoughtful and
7 deliberative process.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
9 urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals and the Louisiana Ambulance
10 Alliance to work in collaboration through the Emergency Medical Services Professional
11 Working Group to meet certain goals and to report to the Senate and House committees on
12 health and welfare by February 1, 2012.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Emergency Medical Services Professional
14 Working Group is hereby created and shall be composed of the following members who
15 shall be appointed no later than July 15, 2011:

16 (1) The secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals or his designee.

17 (2) The chief executive officer of the Louisiana Ambulance Alliance or his designee.

18 (3) The Department of Health and Hospitals Director of Emergency Preparedness or
19 his designee.

20 (4) The Louisiana State Fire Marshall or his designee.

21 (5) The executive director of the Louisiana Emergency Response Network (LERN)
22 or his designee.

23 (6) The executive director of the Louisiana Chapter of the American College of
24 Emergency Physicians or his designee.

25 (7) The chairperson of the Department of Health and Hospitals Emergency Medical
26 Services Certification Commission or his designee who is, at a minimum, a state-certified
27 emergency medical technician.

28 (8) The president of the Louisiana Association of Registered Emergency Medical
29 Technicians or his designee, who is, at a minimum, a state-certified emergency medical
30 technician.

1 In addition, the following professionals within the Louisiana Department of Health
2 and Hospitals may appoint one representative to the working group to act in an advisory
3 capacity only:

4 (1) The director of the bureau of emergency medical services, office of public health,
5 within the Department of Health and Hospitals.

6 (2) The chair of the Ambulance Standards Committee of the Emergency Medical
7 Services Task Force.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the initial meeting shall be held no later than
9 August 1, 2011, and the Emergency Medical Services Professional Working Group shall
10 provide for the manner and frequency of the group's meetings and for all other
11 administrative matters necessary in order to function as a working group.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following objectives and goals shall be met
13 by the Emergency Medical Services Professional Working Group:

14 (1) Develop language for legislation to address nationally required changes to
15 Louisiana law governing emergency medical services.

16 (2) Discuss and outline additional system recommendations which may improve
17 emergency medical services, avoid service duplication and redundancy, and align services
18 with currently existing departments within the Department of Health and Hospitals.

19 (3) Review, discuss and recommend the most appropriate location and statutory
20 structure for the licensure and certification of emergency medical personnel, specifically
21 addressing whether the licensing function should remain with the Department of Health and
22 Hospitals or be transferred to an independent regulatory board or other more appropriate
23 venue as identified by the Emergency Medical Services Professional Working Group.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Emergency Services Professional Working
25 Group shall submit a written report of its conclusions and recommendations to the Senate
26 and House committees on health and welfare by February 1, 2012. The group shall
27 terminate no later than June 30, 2012.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to all
29 members of the Emergency Medical Services Professional Working Group.

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

DIGEST

Cheek

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