## SLS 13RS-2319

## **ORIGINAL**

Regular Session, 2013

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 101

BY SENATORS WHITE, BROOME, DORSEY-COLOMB AND WARD

HEALTH/HOSPITALS DEPT. Requests the Department of Health and Hospitals to protect certain hospitals from the negative financial consequences of the closure of the Earl K. Long Medical Center by adequately compensating such hospitals for their increased burden of providing health care to the poor and uninsured residents of the greater Baton Rouge region.

| 1  | A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION  |
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| 2  | To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to protect certain hospitals from |
| 3  | the negative financial consequences of the closure of Earl K. Long Medical Center            |
| 4  | by adequately compensating those hospitals for their increased burden of providing           |
| 5  | care to the poor and uninsured residents of the greater Baton Rouge region.                  |
| 6  | WHEREAS, Earl K. Long Medical Center provided much needed health care                        |
| 7  | services to residents of the greater Baton Rouge region who were uninsured or covered by     |
| 8  | the state's Medicaid program; and  |
| 9  | WHEREAS, Earl K. Long Medical Center was scheduled to close in November 2013                 |
| 10 | but closed on a accelerated schedule on April 15, 2013; and                                  |
| 11 | WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Hospitals published a rule to adjust the               |
| 12 | reimbursement methodology for hospitals that could demonstrate a significant change in the   |
| 13 | number of uninsured treated within six months before the scheduled closure of Earl K. Long   |
| 14 | Medical Center; and  |
| 15 | WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural             |
| 16 | and Mechanical College and the Department of Health and Hospitals entered into a             |
| 17 | cooperative endeavor agreement pursuant to which responsibility for the care of the patients |
| 18 | formerly served by Earl K. Long Medical Center was assumed by Our Lady of the Lake           |

1 Regional Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such cooperative endeavor agreement, much of the care
formerly provided by Earl K. Long Medical Center was transferred to the campus of Our
Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center and away from the campus of Earl K. Long
Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, despite the best efforts of Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical
Center, a significant number of the patients formerly served by Earl K. Long Medical
Center, many of whom are uninsured, have chosen to seek their health care not at Our Lady
of the Lake Regional Medical Center but through the emergency departments of hospitals
closer to the former Earl K. Long Medical Center campus; and

WHEREAS, the care provided to those patients formerly served by Earl K. Long Medical Center is causing a severe financial strain on those hospitals nearest to the former campus of Earl K. Long Medical Center that the department's rule does not address, and current Medicaid funding to those hospitals is inadequate to protect those hospitals from the consequences of that significant increase in such care.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to modify its reimbursement 17 18 methodology for hospitals, subject to the approval of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid 19 Services, to provide enhanced reimbursement for indigent patients presenting for outpatient 20 treatment or requiring inpatient admission and not able to be transferred, for community 21 owned hospitals or hospital service districts that are within fifteen miles of the former campus of Earl K. Long Medical Center and that have an increase in indigent emergency 22 23 room visits greater than ten percent from the date of the announcement of the closure of Earl 24 K. Long Medical Center compared to the first full three month period after closure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana has determined that
Baton Rouge General Medical Center and Hospital Service District No. 1 of East Baton
Rouge Parish, Louisiana, doing business as Lane Regional Medical Center, meet the
foregoing criteria.

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

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Christopher D. Adams.

White

## DIGEST

SCR No. 101

Requests the Department of Health and Hospitals protect certain hospitals from the negative financial consequences of the closure of Earl K. Long Medical Center by adequately compensating those hospitals for their increased burden of providing health care to the poor and uninsured residents of the greater Baton Rouge region.