HLS 14RS-3453 ORIGINAL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Regular Session, 2014

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 88

BY REPRESENTATIVE SIMON

HEALTH SERVICES: Creates the Task Force on Telehealth Access

2	To create the Task Force on Telehealth Access as an advisory body to the legislature and the
3	Department of Health and Hospitals on policies and practices that expand access to
4	telehealth services, and to direct the task force to report to the governor and the
5	legislature on the status of telehealth access in Louisiana.
6	WHEREAS, the term "telemedicine" refers to the use of medical information
7	exchanged from one site to another via electronic communications to improve the health of
8	a patient; and
9	WHEREAS, as an innovative form of health care, telemedicine is extremely valuable
10	because it enhances access to care, particularly in rural locations and other medically
11	underserved areas; makes delivery of care more cost-effective; and distributes limited
12	provider resources more efficiently; and
13	WHEREAS, many patients with limited access to traditional health care can be
14	diagnosed and treated sooner through telemedicine than they would be otherwise, resulting
15	in improved outcomes and less costly treatments due to early detection and prevention; and
16	WHEREAS, Louisiana law, R.S. 37:1271(B)(2), provides that any person authorized
17	to practice telemedicine shall ensure that a licensed health care professional who can
18	adequately examine the patient and diagnose illness is in the examination room with the
19	patient at the time telemedicine services are delivered; and
20	WHEREAS, while requiring the physical presence of a second health care
21	professional with a patient in the practice of telemedicine is important for patient safety and
22	quality of treatment, this requirement also represents a barrier to care for persons who could

1	access a physician quickly through electronic means but could not also access a provider in
2	person at the same time; and
3	WHEREAS, the term "telehealth" encompasses telemedicine as well as other health
4	services which can be provided remotely through communication technologies; and
5	WHEREAS, common examples of telehealth services in practice include primary
6	care, medical specialty consultations, behavioral health services, and home monitoring of
7	chronic disease; and
8	WHEREAS, telehealth services could potentially address a great unmet need for
9	health care by persons who have limited access to both traditional health care settings and
10	to telemedicine as currently defined in Louisiana law; and
11	WHEREAS, if our state is to achieve much needed improvement in health outcomes,
12	a prudent and responsible policy for doing so would be to balance patient safety and access
13	to care through expanding access by Louisianians to telehealth services.
14	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15	create the Task Force on Telehealth Access.
16	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of thirteen
17	members as follows:
18	(1) The secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals or his designee.
19	(2) The executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners or his
20	designee.
21	(3) A representative of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at
22	New Orleans.
23	(4) A representative of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at
24	Shreveport.
25	(5) A representative of the Tulane University School of Medicine.
26	(6) A representative of the Louisiana State Medical Society.
27	(7) A representative of the Louisiana Primary Care Association.
28	(8) A representative of the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum.
29	(9) A representative of the HomeCare Association of Louisiana.

(10) A representative of the Louisiana Hospital Association.

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1	(11) A representative of the Louisiana Association of Health Plans.
2	(12) A representative of the Louisiana Cable and Telecommunications Association.
3	(13) A representative of the TexLa Telehealth Resource Center.
4	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall convene on or before
5	September 1, 2014.
6	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the functions of the task force shall include all
7	of the following:
8	(1) Serve as an advisory body to the legislature and the Department of Health and
9	Hospitals on policies and practices that expand access to telehealth services in a manner that
10	ensures quality of care and patient safety.
11	(2) Serve as a coordinating forum on telehealth-related matters between and among
12	state agencies, local government, and other nongovernmental groups.
13	(3) On a regular basis, research and review state regulations, guidelines, policies,
14	and procedures that pertain in any way to telehealth and make policy recommendations to
15	the governor, the legislature, and the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.
16	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before January 1, 2015, and semiannually
17	thereafter, the task force shall prepare and submit to the governor and the legislature a report
18	on the status of telehealth access in Louisiana.
19	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on September 1,
20	2018.
21	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
22	secretary of the 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)]

Simon HCR No. 88

Creates the Task Force on Telehealth Access as an advisory body to the legislature and DHH on policies and practices that expand access to telehealth services.