HLS 14RS-3453 REENGROSSED

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Regular Session, 2014

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person at the same time; and

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 23 access a physician quickly through electronic means but could not also access a provider in

1	WHEREAS, the term "telehealth" encompasses telemedicine as well as other health
2	services which can be provided remotely through communication technologies; and
3	WHEREAS, common examples of telehealth services in practice include primary
4	care, medical specialty consultations, behavioral health services, and home monitoring of
5	chronic disease; and
6	WHEREAS, telehealth services could potentially address a great unmet need for
7	health care by persons who have limited access to both traditional health care settings and
8	to telemedicine as currently defined in Louisiana law; and
9	WHEREAS, if our state is to achieve much needed improvement in health outcomes,
10	a prudent and responsible policy for doing so would be to balance patient safety and access
11	to care through expanding access by Louisianians to telehealth services.
12	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
13	create the Task Force on Telehealth Access.
14	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed the following
15	members:
16	(1) Two members appointed by the secretary of the Department of Health and
17	Hospitals, at least one of whom shall be an employee in the bureau of primary care and rural
18	health.
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.
30	(10) A representative of the Louisiana Hospital Association.

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	(14) A representative of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners.
5	(15) The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections or his
6	designee.
7	(16) A representative of Ochsner Health System.
8	(17) A representative of Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center.
9	(18) A representative of the Louisiana Rural Hospital Coalition, Inc.
10	(19) A representative of the Louisiana Ambulance Alliance.
1	(20) A representative of the Louisiana Nursing Home Association.
12	(21) A representative of the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists.
13	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Department of Health and
14	Hospitals shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure that the initial convening of the
15	task force occurs on or before September 1, 2014.
16	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall select a chairman from
17	among its members.
18	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve
19	without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be
20	individually entitled by their respective employer organizations.
21	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the functions of the task force shall include all
22	of the following:
23	(1) Serve as an advisory body to the legislature and the Department of Health and
24	Hospitals on policies and practices that expand access to telehealth services in a manner that
25	ensures quality of care and patient safety.
26	(2) Serve as a coordinating forum on telehealth-related matters between and among
27	state agencies, local government, and other nongovernmental groups.
28	(3) Study technical aspects of delivery systems utilized in telehealth, and develop

basic standards based upon such study to recommend to the governor, the legislature, and

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- 1 the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals concerning modalities and features
- 2 of telehealth delivery systems.
- 3 (4) On a regular basis, research and review state regulations, guidelines, policies,
- 4 and procedures that pertain in any way to telehealth and make policy recommendations to
- 5 the governor, the legislature, and the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.
- 6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before January 1, 2015, and semiannually
- 7 thereafter, the task force shall prepare and submit to the governor and the legislature a report
- 8 on the status of telehealth access in Louisiana.
- 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on September 1,
- 10 2018.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
- 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.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Health and Welfare</u> to the <u>original</u> bill.

- 1. Increased number of members representing DHH <u>from one to</u> two and stipulated that at least one member be an employee in the bureau of primary care and rural health.
- 2. Added members representing the following groups to the task force in the number of one member per group:
 - (a) The Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners.
 - (b) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections.
 - (c) Ochsner Health System.
 - (d) Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center.
 - (e) The Louisiana Rural Hospital Coalition, Inc.
 - (f) The Louisiana Ambulance Alliance.

- (g) The Louisiana Nursing Home Association.
- 3. Among the enumerated functions of the task force, added a requirement that the task force study technical aspects of delivery systems utilized in telehealth, and develop basic standards based upon such study to recommend to the governor, the legislature, and the secretary of DHH concerning modalities and features of telehealth delivery systems.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

- 1. Added the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists as a task force member organization.
- 2. Specified that the secretary of DHH shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure that the initial convening of the task force occurs.
- 3. Added directive for the task force providing that it shall select a chairman from among its members.
- 4. Added provision stipulating that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled by their respective employer organizations.