

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 199

BY REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON

HEALTH CARE: Creates a working group to study the impact of nurse practitioners on enhancement of access to health care in medically underserved areas

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create a working group to study the impact of nurse practitioners on enhancement of
3 access to health care in medically underserved areas of this state.

4 WHEREAS, Louisiana faces a severe shortage of primary care providers, and this
5 shortage is projected to worsen as the state's population ages and demands more intensive
6 levels of care; and

7 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Health and Human
8 Services, nearly sixty percent of Louisiana residents have little to no access to primary care
9 physicians where they live; and

10 WHEREAS, Louisiana ranks forty-eighth in the most recent *America's Health*
11 *Rankings* report of the United Health Foundation; and

12 WHEREAS, with respect to health insurance coverage in this state, estimates indicate
13 that nearly four hundred thousand Louisiana residents will be newly insured under the
14 Affordable Care Act and seeking primary care services; and

15 WHEREAS, modernizing Louisiana's laws to allow advanced practice registered
16 nurses such as nurse practitioners to provide care to the full extent of their education and
17 training would result in improved access to health care, greater focus on primary and
18 preventive care, and improved care coordination, particularly in medically underserved
19 areas; and

20 WHEREAS, developing a study to demonstrate nurse practitioners' ability to increase
21 access by healthcare consumers to high-quality, safe, and affordable care in underserved

1 areas of Louisiana would be prudent and highly beneficial for the future of health care in this
2 state.

3 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
4 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create a working group to study the impact of nurse
5 practitioners on enhancement of access to health care in medically underserved areas of this
6 state.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall be comprised of the
8 following members:

9 (1) The executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing or his designee.

10 (2) The commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Insurance or his designee.

11 (3) The secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals or his designee.

12 (4) The president of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners or his
13 designee.

14 (5) The president of the Louisiana Hospital Association or his designee.

15 (6) The executive director of the Louisiana Nursing Home Association or his
16 designee.

17 (7) The executive director of AARP Louisiana or his designee.

18 (8) The executive director of the Rapides Foundation or his designee.

19 (9) The executive director of the Greater New Orleans Foundation or his designee.

20 (10) The executive director of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation or his designee.

21 (11) The executive director of Baptist Community Ministries or his designee.

22 (12) The co-lead of the Louisiana Action Coalition or his designee.

23 (13) The executive director of the Advocacy Center or his designee.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve
25 without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be
26 individually entitled by their respective organizations.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the executive director of AARP Louisiana or his
28 designee shall serve as the chairperson of the working group and shall facilitate the
29 organization of the group.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group may adopt rules of procedure,
2 a work schedule, and any additional measures deemed necessary for the timely performance
3 of its duties.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairperson shall convene the first meeting
5 of the working group on or before September 1, 2014.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the total membership of the
7 working group shall constitute a quorum, and any official action by the group shall require
8 an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group may conduct meetings at
10 such times as it deems necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively
11 its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this Resolution.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall make a report of its
13 work and findings to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana not later
14 than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of
15 Louisiana.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that legislative authority for the working group shall
17 terminate on March 1, 2016.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
19 executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, the commissioner of the
20 Louisiana Department of Insurance, the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals,
21 the president of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners, the president of the
22 Louisiana Hospital Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Nursing Home
23 Association, the executive director of AARP Louisiana, the executive director of the Rapides
24 Foundation, the executive director of the Greater New Orleans Foundation, the executive
25 director of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, the executive director of Baptist Community
26 Ministries, the co-lead of the Louisiana Action Coalition, and the executive director of the
27 Advocacy Center.

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)]

Johnson

HR No. 199

Creates and provides for a thirteen-member working group to study the impact of nurse practitioners on enhancement of access to health care in medically underserved areas of Louisiana, and to report its findings to the House of Representatives not later than 60 days prior to the convening of the 2015 R.S.