

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 199

BY REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, developing a study to demonstrate nurse practitioners' ability to increase access by healthcare consumers to high-quality, safe, and affordable care in underserved areas of Louisiana would be prudent and highly beneficial for the future of health care in this state.

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

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

- (1) The executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing or his designee.
- (2) The commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Insurance or his designee.
- (3) The secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals or his designee.
- (4) The president of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners or his designee.
- (5) The president of the Louisiana Hospital Association or his designee.
- (6) The executive director of the Louisiana Nursing Home Association or his designee.
- (7) The executive director of AARP Louisiana or his designee.
- (8) The executive director of the Rapides Foundation or his designee.
- (9) The executive director of the Greater New Orleans Foundation or his designee.
- (10) The executive director of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation or his designee.
- (11) The executive director of Baptist Community Ministries or his designee.
- (12) The co-lead of the Louisiana Action Coalition or his designee.
- (13) The executive director of the Advocacy Center or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 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 organizations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES