

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 116

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON

HEALTH: Urges and requests the Dept. of Health and Hospitals and LSU Board of Supervisors to conduct a study assessing the current and future delivery of health care and medical education in La. and to make recommendations

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals and the Louisiana State University (LSU) Board of Supervisors to study the existing structure and delivery of care within the LSU hospital system managed by the LSU Health Sciences Centers at New Orleans and Shreveport to determine whether the hospital infrastructure, including the planned academic medical center in New Orleans, meets the current needs of our state population and the projected needs of our state once federal health reform is implemented; to study the monetary feasibility of sustaining Louisiana's public hospital system once federal health reform is implemented and to recommend the most cost-effective and efficient system of health care delivery in the future; to study the system of medical education in Louisiana, taking into consideration the geographic locations of the medical schools; to determine whether the current and planned infrastructure is the most efficient and cost-effective method to train an adequate number of physicians to practice statewide; to study the feasibility of establishing a medical school at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center; and to report these findings to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare no later than December 15, 2011.

WHEREAS, there have been major geographic shifts in the population of Louisiana since the Charity Hospital system was first created, as well as dramatic changes in the policy guiding health care delivery over the past few decades; and

1 WHEREAS, the recently enacted federal health reform legislation will drastically
2 decrease the number of uninsured people in Louisiana, shrinking the population of patients
3 which has been traditionally served by the LSU hospital system along with the system's
4 Medicaid Disproportionate Share dollars; and

5 WHEREAS, the federal health reform legislation is projected to exacerbate the
6 physician shortage due to the influx of new insured patients in the health care system; and

7 WHEREAS, over the last few years, the population of the metropolitan Baton Rouge
8 area has greatly increased, and with it, a demand for more physicians; and

9 WHEREAS, the new academic medical center, which is planned for construction in
10 New Orleans, has been projected to cost one billion two hundred million dollars and add four
11 hundred twenty-four licensed beds to the New Orleans region; and

12 WHEREAS, it is important to ascertain whether the New Orleans metropolitan area
13 has the population to sustain another large hospital or whether it is more feasible for the state
14 to contract with other nonstate health facilities to provide health care services to the indigent
15 population, similar to the agreement between Earl K. Long Hospital and Our Lady of the
16 Lake Regional Medical Center; and

17 WHEREAS, the Pennington Biomedical Center in Baton Rouge is a leading research
18 institution, with laboratories, existing inpatient and outpatient clinics, and a team of expert
19 scientists and physicians representing such specialties as molecular biology, genomics and
20 proteomics, neuroanatomy, and other areas of expertise that Louisiana could build upon in
21 order to train the number of physicians required to serve the population once federal health
22 reform is implemented.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
24 urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals and the Louisiana State University
25 (LSU) Board of Supervisors to study the existing structure and delivery of care within the
26 LSU hospital system managed by the LSU Health Sciences Centers at New Orleans and
27 Shreveport to determine whether the hospital infrastructure, including the planned academic
28 medical center in New Orleans, meets the current needs of our state population and the
29 projected needs of our state once federal health reform is implemented; to study the
30 monetary feasibility of sustaining Louisiana's public hospital system once federal health

1 reform is implemented and, if feasibility is questioned, to recommend the most cost-effective
2 and efficient system of health care delivery in the future; to study the system of medical
3 education in Louisiana, taking into consideration the geographic locations of the medical
4 schools; to determine whether the current and planned infrastructure is the most efficient and
5 cost-effective method to train an adequate number of physicians to practice statewide; and
6 to study the feasibility of establishing a medical school at the Pennington Biomedical
7 Research Center.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a report of these findings be submitted to the
9 House and Senate committees on health and welfare no later than December 15, 2011.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be submitted to the
11 secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals and the chair of the LSU Board of
12 Supervisors.

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)]

Harrison

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Urges and requests the Dept. of Health and Hospitals and the La. State University (LSU) Board of Supervisors to study the existing structure and delivery of care within the LSU hospital system managed by the LSU Health Sciences Centers at New Orleans and Shreveport to determine whether the hospital infrastructure, including the planned academic medical center in New Orleans, meets the current needs of our state population and the projected needs of our state once federal health reform is implemented; to study the monetary feasibility of sustaining La.'s public hospital system once federal health reform is implemented and to recommend the most cost-effective and efficient system of health care delivery in the future; to study the system of medical education in La., taking into consideration the geographic locations of the medical schools; to determine whether the current and planned infrastructure is the most efficient and cost-effective method to train an adequate number of physicians to practice statewide; to study the feasibility of establishing a medical school at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center; and to report these findings to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare no later than Dec. 15, 2011.