

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 230

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLMOTT

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to coordinate a study effort with select healthcare workforce development stakeholders to identify means by which to enhance access to needed health services in health professional shortage areas.

WHEREAS, pursuant to authority provided in the Public Health Service Act, the United States Department of Health and Human Services may officially designate geographic areas with a pronounced shortage of primary medical care, dental services, mental health providers, or any combination of these as "health professional shortage areas"; and

WHEREAS, certain population groups, regardless of whether they are associated by geography, can also be officially designated as health professional shortage areas; and

WHEREAS, in the aggregate and relative to the size of its population, Louisiana encompasses among the most extensive health professional shortage areas of all U.S. states, and such areas exist in both rural and urban communities of this state; and

WHEREAS, forty-nine Louisiana parishes are designated in their entirety as health professional shortage areas, and eight additional parishes are designated partially as such shortage areas; and

WHEREAS, as evidenced in part by the final adoption and concurrence of House Concurrent Resolution No. 170 of the 2015 Regular Session and House Concurrent Resolution No. 22 of this 2016 Regular Session, the legislature has expressed serious concern regarding the issue of access to health care in this state; and

WHEREAS, the dire effects on health and well-being of the people of this state resulting from lack of access to health care are self-evident problems; and

WHEREAS, resolving these problems is an urgent public health priority of this state;
and

WHEREAS, due to the abundance of public health research expertise among staff in the office of public health of the Department of Health and Hospitals, this office is uniquely qualified to coordinate a study effort to identify means by which to enhance access to needed health services in Louisiana's health professional shortage areas.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the office of public health of the Department of Health and Hospitals to coordinate a study effort to identify means by which to enhance access to health services in the health professional shortage areas of this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include an assessment of the impact of Medicaid expansion in Louisiana on overall access to health services; as well as means by which to deliver health care to the newly eligible Medicaid population, currently estimated to be approximately three hundred thousand persons, in the most efficient and effective manner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the office of public health may engage, collaborate with, and obtain information and perspective from organizations with expertise in healthcare workforce development including but not limited to the following:

- (1) The Louisiana Workforce Commission.
- (2) The Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans.
- (3) The Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport.
- (4) The Southern University School of Nursing.
- (5) The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.
- (6) The Louisiana State Board of Nursing.
- (7) The Louisiana Primary Care Association.
- (8) The Louisiana Public Health Institute.
- (9) The Louisiana Hospital Association.
- (10) The Rural Hospital Coalition.
- (11) The Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners.
- (12) The Louisiana State Medical Society.

- (13) The Community Provider Association.
- (14) The Louisiana Nursing Home Association.
- (15) AARP Louisiana.
- (16) The Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall provide the findings of the study requested in this Resolution in the form of a report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, the executive director of Louisiana Workforce Commission, the chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans, the chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport, the dean of the Southern University School of Nursing, the executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, the executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, the executive director of the Louisiana Primary Care Association, the chief executive officer of the Louisiana Public Health Institute, the president of the Louisiana Hospital Association, the executive director of the Rural Hospital Coalition, the president of Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners, the chief executive officer of the Louisiana State Medical Society, the executive director of the Community Provider Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Nursing Home Association, the state director of AARP Louisiana, and the president of the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES