

2016 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 191

BY SENATOR BARROW

HEALTH CARE. Requests a study of ways to enhance access to health care services in health professional shortage areas.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study ways to enhance  
3 access to health care services in health professional shortage areas.

4 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human Services designates  
5 geographic areas with a critical shortage of primary medical care, dental services, mental  
6 health providers, or any combination of these as health professional shortage areas; and

7 WHEREAS, geographic and access barriers are also considered in designating a  
8 location as a health professional shortage area; and

9 WHEREAS, Louisiana has one of the most extensive health professional shortage  
10 area designations of all states, with such designation being attributed to both rural and urban  
11 areas; and

12 WHEREAS, access to health care services is an important issue to study, especially  
13 as the state expands Medicaid and more individuals will be seeking access to preventive and  
14 primary care; and

15 WHEREAS, the office of public health of the Department of Health and Hospitals  
16 is the appropriate governmental entity to study ways to enhance access to health care  
17 services in Louisiana's health professional shortage areas.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana

1 does hereby urge and request the office of public health of the Department of Health and  
2 Hospitals to coordinate a study effort to identify ways to enhance access to health care  
3 services in the health professional shortage areas of this state.

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

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the office of public  
10 health may collaborate with organizations with expertise in health care workforce  
11 development including but not limited to the following:

- 12 (1) The Louisiana Workforce Commission.
- 13 (2) The Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans.
- 14 (3) The Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport.
- 15 (4) The Southern University School of Nursing.
- 16 (5) The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.
- 17 (6) The Louisiana State Board of Nursing.
- 18 (7) The Louisiana Primary Care Association.
- 19 (8) The Louisiana Public Health Institute.
- 20 (9) The Louisiana Hospital Association.
- 21 (10) The Rural Hospital Coalition.
- 22 (11) The Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners.
- 23 (12) The Louisiana State Medical Society.
- 24 (13) The Community Provider Association.
- 25 (14) The Louisiana Nursing Home Association.
- 26 (15) AARP Louisiana.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall submit a report of its  
28 findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare no later than  
29 thirty days prior to the convening of the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

