

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 191

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate 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 ways to enhance access to health care 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 collaborate with organizations with expertise in health care 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare 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, and the state director of AARP Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE