

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 191

BY SENATOR CHABERT

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to study the governance, efficiencies, and service delivery of the Louisiana State University Health Care Services Division and the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University Health Care Services Division (LSU-HCSD) operates hospitals, clinics, and trauma centers around the state, serving hundreds of thousands of patients every year; and

WHEREAS, in 1936 the Legislature of Louisiana created a state hospital board to implement the late Governor Huey P. Long's plan to build a chain of charity hospitals around the state, and the building of these facilities continued through the next three decades; and

WHEREAS, that chain of hospitals looks very different today, generally competing in the marketplace for available health care dollars on a par with privately-owned and nonprofit healthcare facilities; and

WHEREAS, today LSU-HCSD operates the following hospitals: Bogalusa Medical Center, E.A. Conway Medical Center (Monroe), Earl K. Long Medical Center [to partner with Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center] (Baton Rouge), Huey P. Long Medical Center (Pineville), Interim LSU Public Hospital (New Orleans), Lallie Kemp Medical Center (Independence), L.J. Chabert Medical Center (Houma), LSU Hospital (Shreveport), University Medical Center (Lafayette), and W.O. Moss Regional Medical Center (Lake Charles); and

WHEREAS, these hospitals serve every corner of the state and offer essential services to both inpatients and outpatients, often providing the only inpatient, emergency, and psychiatric care within a reasonable distance; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 these hospitals recorded more than three hundred thousand inpatient days (one patient/day/bed), nearly one million six hundred thousand outpatient visits, over four hundred thousand emergency department encounters (patients treated), and over one million one hundred thousand outpatient clinic visits; and

WHEREAS, sixty percent of all physician residents and fellows in Louisiana are assigned to and trained in the LSU-HCSD hospitals at any one time, and nearly all those practicing in the state have worked in these facilities and outpatient clinics at some time during their medical training; and

WHEREAS, in serving this huge portion of the population of Louisiana's sick and injured, these hospitals serve a strategic and vital role in training medical, nursing, and allied health professionals both while attending medical school and through residency training after graduation; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSU-HSC) operates the medical school in New Orleans, the medical school in Shreveport, school of nursing in New Orleans, the dental school in New Orleans, and the school of allied health professions in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, medical education and research are related pursuits and the LSU-HSC asserts that academic excellence in research heightens the intellectual atmosphere, develops new knowledge, and transmits current information for the benefit of all Louisianians; and

WHEREAS, the undergraduate training programs at these institutions enable students to become competent, caring physicians, nurses, dentists, and allied health professionals, most of whom remain in the state of Louisiana to practice following graduation; and

WHEREAS, these undergraduate training programs assess and adjust to the changing physician workforce, as well as nursing and allied health, to meet the health care needs of the state as a whole.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to study the governance, efficiencies, and service delivery of the Louisiana State University Health Care Services Division and the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare report its findings and conclusions to the Senate no later than February 1, 2013.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE