

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 35

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board within the office of group benefits to study and prepare a cost benefit analysis for the provision of anti-obesity treatments and services for plan participants.

WHEREAS, according to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Louisiana has the sixth highest obesity rate in the nation with one out of every four adults in Louisiana being obese; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has the eighth highest obesity rate for youth ages ten to seventeen; and

WHEREAS, the office of group benefits (OGB) provides health insurance for more than 167,000 active employees and their dependents, more than 82,000 retirees and their dependents, and nearly 400 COBRA participants for a combined total of more than 250,000 lives covered; and

WHEREAS, OGB's current fiscal year (FY19) budget is more than \$1.53 billion with a proposed fiscal year (FY20) budget of \$1.56 billion; and

WHEREAS, if Louisiana's overall obesity statistics are correlative to the OGB population, it may be that nearly 63,000 of those covered by OGB are obese; and

WHEREAS, the legislature, at R.S. 42:881, created the Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board within OGB to review and recommend life and health benefit programs offered to eligible employees, including proposed rate structure which will support the life and health benefit plan; and

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization, being overweight or obese

can have serious consequences such as cardiovascular disease including heart disease and stroke, type 2 diabetes, musculoskeletal disorders like osteoarthritis, and some cancers like endometrial, breast, and colon; and

WHEREAS, while these conditions cause premature death and substantial disability, what is often overlooked is that risk of health problems start when someone is only very slightly overweight, and that the likelihood of problems increases as someone becomes more and more overweight, meaning that the impact can most certainly be minimized with due attention; and

WHEREAS, the consequences of obesity cause long-term suffering for individuals and families, decreased quality of life, decreased productivity, and often unmanageable financial costs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board within the office of group benefits to study and prepare a cost benefit analysis for the provision of anti-obesity treatments and services for plan participants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting its analysis, the Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board shall:

(1) Estimate the costs and benefits to OGB associated with providing insurance coverage for anti-obesity treatment and services including counseling, medication, and surgery.

(2) Compare the costs and benefits estimated for providing those treatments and services with the costs and benefits to OGB associated with treating diseases caused by or linked to obesity including diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and other diseases.

(3) Analyze whether there would be cost savings associated with providing insurance coverage for anti-obesity treatment and services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board shall submit a report of its analysis and findings to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and Senate Committee on Finance on or before February 1, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that OGB may work with other insurers or other interested persons in developing the report required by this Section.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chief executive officer of the office of group benefits and the executive director of the Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE