

1 WHEREAS, rising prescription drug prices have affected both Louisiana residents
2 who purchase prescription drugs and public healthcare programs that pay for prescription
3 drugs; and

4 WHEREAS, among the Louisiana residents who are most reliant on prescription
5 drugs are senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and individuals with chronic diseases;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, many residents may be reluctantly adopting the unhealthy and
8 potentially dangerous practice of reducing their physician-prescribed prescription drug
9 dosages; and

10 WHEREAS, rising prices for prescription drugs combined with an increase in patient
11 cost-sharing, including copays, coinsurance, and deductibles, decreases the likelihood of
12 adherence, resulting in worse health outcomes for patients and wasteful spending; and

13 WHEREAS, providing for affordable access to medically necessary prescription
14 drugs will lower healthcare costs; and

15 WHEREAS, the state of New York recently adopted a policy authorizing, when total
16 Medicaid drug expenditures are projected to exceed the state's annual growth limitation, the
17 referral of prescription drugs to a drug utilization review board for a recommendation as to
18 whether a target supplemental Medicaid rebate should be paid to the state by the
19 manufacturer of the drug and the target amount of the rebate; and

20 WHEREAS, the pricing of prescription drugs impacts state Medicaid budgets,
21 Medicare spending, insurance premiums and prescription drug tiers, and, most importantly,
22 patient access to these medications and medication adherence.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
24 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health
25 to study the desirability and feasibility of adopting a state policy to provide for the review
26 of prescription drug prices in the medical assistance program, known commonly as
27 Medicaid.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health, in
29 conducting the study requested by this Resolution, shall specifically determine the
30 desirability and feasibility of implementing a policy similar to the recently enacted policy

1 of the state of New York to encourage drug manufacturers to provide supplemental Medicaid
2 rebates.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall submit
4 a report of its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation if necessary,
5 to the House Committee on Health and Welfare no later than sixty days prior to the
6 convening of the 2018 Regular Legislative Session.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted
8 to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Talbot

Requests the La. Dept. of Health to study the desirability and feasibility of adopting rules to provide for review of prescription drug prices in the medical assistance program.