

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 116

BY REPRESENTATIVE NORTON

MEDICAID: Urges and requests the Louisiana Department of Health to study and determine the desirability and feasibility of implementing the health home option in the medical assistance program

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study and determine the
3 desirability and feasibility of implementing the health home option in the medical
4 assistance program, known commonly as Medicaid.

5 WHEREAS, the mental health and well-being of the residents of Louisiana is a vital
6 issue that affects not only quality of life, but also the health of communities, families, and
7 economic stability; and

8 WHEREAS, nearly forty-four million adults in the United States live with mental
9 illness, and twenty percent of children and adolescents have a diagnosable mental health
10 disorder; and

11 WHEREAS, one in twenty-five individuals in the United States has lived with a
12 serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depression; and

13 WHEREAS, studies note that individuals with serious mental illness die, on average,
14 twenty-five years earlier than individuals in the general population; and

15 WHEREAS, individuals with mental illness, behavioral health disorders, or
16 co-occurring substance use disorders can recover through treatment that includes
17 psychosocial therapy, clinical treatment, and peer support, alone or in combination with
18 behavioral, psychiatric, psychological, or integrated medical services; and

19 WHEREAS, parents, families, and caregivers are allies in recovery and serve as
20 critical members of the care delivery team; and

1 WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act authorizes health homes as a Medicaid state
2 plan option that provides a comprehensive system of care coordination for Medicaid
3 enrollees with chronic conditions including serious mental illness; and

4 WHEREAS, Medicaid health homes provide states with an important opportunity
5 to integrate physical and behavioral health care for beneficiaries with complex care needs
6 by integrating and coordinating all primary, acute, and behavioral health care and long-term
7 services and supports to treat the "whole person" across the individual's lifespan; and

8 WHEREAS, the unintended consequence of untreated mental illness results in a
9 negative financial and social impact on Louisiana including an ever-increasing burden on
10 the criminal justice system; and

11 WHEREAS, the legislature declares that, due to compelling moral and economic
12 reasons, it is in the best interest of Louisiana to study and evaluate the state's current
13 statewide system of healthcare delivery for Medicaid enrollees with serious mental illness.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study and determine the desirability
16 and feasibility of implementing the health home option in the medical assistance program,
17 known commonly as Medicaid.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall make a thorough evaluation
19 of the feasibility and desirability of implementing a Medicaid health home state plan option
20 to complement the current state medical assistance program and provide comprehensive care
21 coordination for Medicaid beneficiaries with a serious mental illness, including, at a
22 minimum, all of the following services:

- 23 (1) Comprehensive care management.
- 24 (2) Care coordination.
- 25 (3) Health promotion.
- 26 (4) Comprehensive transitional care and follow-up.
- 27 (5) Patient and family support.
- 28 (6) Referral to community and social support services.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall endeavor to create a health
30 home plan that achieves the prudent and efficient use of currently available services without

1 expanding the scope of the covered services under the Louisiana medical assistance
2 program.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall include in its evaluation an
4 assessment of the financial, social, and medical impacts of implementing the health home
5 option in the medical assistance program, including both potential costs and savings and the
6 estimated number of Medicaid enrollees who would qualify for assistance.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall submit a report of its
8 findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation if necessary, to the House
9 Health and Welfare Committee, the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, the House
10 Appropriations Committee, and the Senate Finance Committee no later than thirty days prior
11 to the convening of the 2018 Regular Legislative Session. The department may render
12 objective, fiscally feasible recommendations to the legislature for the implementation of
13 policies that could be adopted by the state.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
15 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)]

HCR 116 Original

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Norton

Requests the La. Department of Health to study and determine the desirability and feasibility of implementing the health home option in the medical assistance program.