

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 92

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES

HEALTH/LDH: Requests study by Louisiana Department of Health to consider Medicaid coverage of gene therapy

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study the feasibility of funding  
3 gene therapy for all sickle cell patients via Medicaid.

4 WHEREAS, sickle cell anemia is a genetic disease that, according to the Centers for  
5 Disease Control and Prevention, affects approximately one in every three hundred sixty-five  
6 African American babies; and

7 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana, through its recent efforts to create a statewide  
8 registry of sickle cell patients, estimates that there are thousands of Louisiana residents with  
9 sickle cell anemia; and

10 WHEREAS, in 2020, over one thousand four hundred individuals in Louisiana were  
11 hospitalized for symptoms related to sickle cell anemia with an average hospital stay of  
12 thirty days; and

13 WHEREAS, research shows that one in every ten children with sickle cell anemia  
14 will have a symptomatic stroke by the age of twenty; and

15 WHEREAS, until recently, the only means of a cure for sickle cell anemia was a  
16 bone marrow transplant; however, statistics show that very few patients are medically  
17 eligible for such a procedure; and

18 WHEREAS, recent breakthroughs in medical research have led to new gene therapy  
19 treatments that could save the lives of sickle cell patients; and

20 WHEREAS, such medical advancements could soon be approved by the United  
21 States Food and Drug Administration by the end of the 2023 calendar year; and

1           WHEREAS, while gene therapy is believed to cure sickle cell disease and the  
2 symptoms resulting therefrom, such therapy is predicted to be costly; and

3           WHEREAS, a financing mechanism to provide this care is needed as the projected  
4 cost of the treatment is over one million dollars per patient; and

5           WHEREAS, the state has used innovative financing models to provide critical access  
6 for other high cost medications, such as those needed for patients with hepatitis C; and

7           WHEREAS, the state's financing models for such services could serve as a model for  
8 financing similar arrangements for patients with sickle cell anemia; and

9           WHEREAS, implementation of this potentially life-saving treatment could lead to  
10 a substantially improved quality of life for thousands of Louisiana residents.

11           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
12 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study the feasibility of funding gene  
13 therapy for all sickle cell patients via Medicaid.

14           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall  
15 develop findings and recommendations concerning this topic and submit its findings in the  
16 form of a written report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, Senate Committee  
17 on Health and Welfare, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library no later than  
18 thirty days prior to the convening of the 2024 Regular Session.

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
20 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 92 Original

2023 Regular Session

Hughes

Requests the La. Dept. of Health to study the feasibility of funding gene therapy for all sickle cell treatment via Medicaid.