

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 83

BY REPRESENTATIVES ECHOLS AND THOMPSON

HEALTH CARE: Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to create a task force to study, identify, and make recommendations to address the specialist physician shortage in the state

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to create a task force to study,  
3 identify, and make recommendations to address the shortage of specialist physicians  
4 in this state.

5 WHEREAS, according to a 2022 report from the Association of American Medical  
6 Colleges, rural areas in the United States have twenty percent of the population, but only  
7 eleven percent of the physicians; and

8 WHEREAS, the National Rural Health Association (NRHA) reported that rural areas  
9 in the United States estimated thirteen and one-tenth physicians per every ten thousand  
10 people; and

11 WHEREAS, the thirteen and one-tenth physicians per every ten thousand people  
12 reported by the NRHA was significantly lower in comparison than the estimated thirty-one  
13 and two-tenths physicians per every ten thousand people in urban areas in the United States;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, in order to promote a healthier Louisiana, it is imperative to ascertain  
16 the adequate number and specialty type of physicians necessary to address the myriad  
17 healthcare needs of Louisiana citizens; and

18 WHEREAS, there are programs that have been created in the state of Louisiana to  
19 address the physician shortage in rural areas; and

20 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has established a multistate job board to connect  
21 employers with doctors working in rural areas; and

1           WHEREAS, the implementation of such programs has not made significant changes  
2 to the high number of physician vacancies and poor referral rates; and

3           WHEREAS, Louisiana does not have a reliable method of determining the location  
4 and specialty of licensed physicians currently practicing in this state; and

5           WHEREAS, Louisiana is working to develop and expand programs aimed at  
6 encouraging physicians to participate in Louisiana residency training programs and to  
7 continue to reside and provide medical care in this state; and

8           WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the state to gather and analyze information  
9 and data in order to be more successful and strategic in physician recruitment and retention;  
10 and

11           WHEREAS, it is necessary to ensure the retention of specialists in this state so  
12 residents of the state do not have to travel outside of the state for specialty medical  
13 treatment.

14           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
15 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to create a task force to conduct  
16 research and make recommendations to address the current and future needs of this state to  
17 maintain the necessary number and specialty type of physicians to provide health care for  
18 our citizens.

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall do all of the following:

20           (1) Study all aspects of the supply and demand for physicians in Louisiana, including  
21 but not limited to the availability and reliability of data associated with the following  
22 variables:

23           (a) Demographic and geographic aspects of the current Louisiana physician  
24 workforce.

25           (b) Number and specialty types of physicians currently practicing in Louisiana,  
26 including geographic distribution.

27           (c) Capacity for and number of residents and specialty types of residents training in  
28 Louisiana, including geographic distribution.

29           (d) Capacity for and number of medical students currently in Louisiana.

1 (e) Number and specialty type of physicians needed to address the health and welfare  
2 of the Louisiana population, based on population demographics, Medicaid and commercial  
3 health insurance claims analysis, and other sources of information.

4 (2) Review best practices from other states in determining physician supply and  
5 demand.

6 (3) Make any other additional recommendations.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may do all of the following:

8 (1) Request the assistance of any state agency or any state official in acquiring  
9 information or cooperation necessary to fulfilling its duties.

10 (2) Engage subject matter experts and contract with third parties.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following groups, organizations, and  
12 agencies shall each appoint a member to the task force who shall serve at the pleasure of the  
13 appointing group, organization, or agency:

14 (1) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.

15 (2) A representative from the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.

16 (3) A representative from the Louisiana State Medical Society.

17 (4) A representative from the Louisiana Hospital Association.

18 (5) A representative from the Louisiana Board of Regents.

19 (6) A representative from the Louisiana Association of Health Plans.

20 (7) A representative from the Louisiana Rural Hospital Association.

21 (8) A representative from the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.

22 (9) The chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New  
23 Orleans or his designee.

24 (10) The chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center  
25 Shreveport or his designee.

26 (11) The president of Tulane University or his designee.

27 (12) The president of the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine or his  
28 designee.

29 (13) A representative from the University of Queensland-Ochsner Clinical School.

30 (14) A representative from the Xavier University of Louisiana.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members shall serve without compensation and  
2 additional members may be added to the task force at any time upon a majority vote of its  
3 members.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall  
5 provide staff to support the task force required by this Resolution.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall adopt rules of procedure and  
7 shall elect its own chairperson who shall organize the task force and its work and meetings,  
8 which shall be made available electronically.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before February 1, 2024, the task force  
10 established by this Resolution shall submit to the House Committee on Health and Welfare,  
11 Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research  
12 Library a written report of its findings and recommendations.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
14 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the executive director of the Louisiana  
15 State Board of Medical Examiners, the president of the Louisiana State Medical Society, the  
16 president of the Louisiana Hospital Association, the chair of the Louisiana Board of Regents,  
17 the president of the Louisiana Association of Health Plans, the president of the Louisiana  
18 Rural Hospital Association, the president of the Louisiana Association of Business and  
19 Industry, the chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New  
20 Orleans, the chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Shreveport,  
21 the president of Tulane University, the president of the Edward Via College of Osteopathic  
22 Medicine, the dean of the University of Queensland-Ochsner Clinical School, and the  
23 president of Xavier University of Louisiana.

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#### 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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HCR 83 Engrossed

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Echols

Requests the La. Dept. of Health to create a task force to study, identify, and make recommendations to address the shortage of specialist physicians in this state.