

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 87

BY REPRESENTATIVE MILLER

HEALTH CARE: Continues the Health Inequalities and Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To continue the Health Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force created in the 2022 Regular  
3 Session of the Legislature of Louisiana pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution No.  
4 44 to identify and study key health issues affecting rural areas and develop strategies  
5 to improve health outcomes for rural and underserved communities and to submit a  
6 written report to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare by  
7 February 1, 2025.

8 WHEREAS, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control and  
9 Prevention, overall health outcomes for African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and  
10 American Indians in this country are far poorer than for white people; and

11 WHEREAS, vast health disparities persist in this country, particularly in rural areas,  
12 and many have worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

13 WHEREAS, rural areas comprise roughly eighty percent of Louisiana's total  
14 geographic area; and

15 WHEREAS, nearly twenty-six percent of our state's population, totaling more than  
16 one million two hundred thousand Louisianans, live in rural communities; and

17 WHEREAS, sixty-three of Louisiana's sixty-four parishes are classified as health  
18 professional shortage areas according to the standards of the federal Health Resources and  
19 Services Administration; and

20 WHEREAS, approximately ninety-eight percent of this state's entire population lives  
21 in a federally designated health professional shortage area; and

1           WHEREAS, the vast majority of Louisiana's rural communities are medically  
2 underserved by all established measures, yet programs to address the health care needs of  
3 this population remain underfunded and few are guided by local stakeholders or locally  
4 conducted needs assessments; and

5           WHEREAS, in consideration of the findings set forth in this Resolution, the  
6 legislature hereby declares that improving health outcomes in rural communities is a critical  
7 public health priority of this state.

8           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
9 continue the Health Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force.

10           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, with the following exceptions, the membership  
11 and duties of the task force shall continue as provided in House Concurrent Resolution No.  
12 44 of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the task force shall include  
14 one member from the Clinicians of Color Working Group and one member of the Louisiana  
15 Managed Medicaid Association, appointed by the board of directors of the Louisiana  
16 Managed Medicaid Association.

17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall continue to be a  
18 subcommittee of the Statewide Health Equity Consortium within the Louisiana Department  
19 of Health.

20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Statewide Health Equity Consortium shall  
21 reconvene the meeting of the task force no later than August 15, 2024.

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members shall be given reasonable notice  
23 of the meetings of the Health Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force.

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any member who fails to attend two consecutive  
25 meetings shall subject to removal by a majority vote of the task force.

26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if a member of the task force is removed, the  
27 chairperson may nominate a new member, who will become a member by majority vote of  
28 the current members of the task force.

29           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may adopt rules of procedure and  
30 any other policies as may be necessary to facilitate the work of the group.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before February 1, 2025, the task force  
2 shall submit to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on  
3 Health and Welfare, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library a report of its  
4 findings and recommendations.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
6 president of the board of directors and the director of clinical practice, health policy, and  
7 advocacy of the Louisiana State Nurses Association, the executive director of the Louisiana  
8 State Board of Nursing, the executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Medical  
9 Examiners, the dean of the Southern University School of Nursing, the president of the board  
10 of directors of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners, the chief executive officer  
11 of the Louisiana State Medical Society, the chief operating officer of the Rural Hospital  
12 Coalition, Inc., the president of the Louisiana Hospital Association, the executive director  
13 of the Louisiana Rural Health Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Primary  
14 Care Association, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the president of the  
15 board of directors of the Louisiana Managed Medicaid Association, the state director of  
16 AARP Louisiana, the president of the board of directors of the Louisiana Academy of  
17 Family Physicians, the president of the Louisiana Council of Administrators in Nursing  
18 Education, the president of the Black Nurses Association of Acadiana, and the president of  
19 the Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association.

#### 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 87 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Miller

Continues the Health Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force as a subcommittee of the Statewide Health Equity Consortium within the La. Dept. of Health and provides for the duties of the task force.

Requires the Statewide Health Equity Consortium to reconvene the meeting of the task force no later than Aug. 15, 2024.

Requires the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the legislative committees on health and welfare on or before Feb. 1, 2025.