

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 94

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

A RESOLUTION

To create and provide for the Task Force on Obesity Care, Cost, and Value to address the chronic disease of obesity in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the chronic disease of obesity is a significant health challenge in Louisiana, which has the fifth highest adult obesity rate and the fourteenth highest childhood obesity rate in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the chronic disease of obesity has been identified as a significant risk factor for severe disease and mortality due to a variety of health issues; and

WHEREAS, complications from obesity may lead to diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and many other comorbidities; and

WHEREAS, obesity is the leading risk factor for type 2 diabetes, which accounts for ninety to ninety-five percent of all diabetes cases; and

WHEREAS, high rates of obesity among various demographics in Louisiana reflect significant health disparities that lead to increased vulnerability to many other conditions; and

WHEREAS, approximately forty-five percent of black Louisianians experience obesity, which is the highest percentage of any racial or ethnic group in the state for the disease; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana could benefit greatly from understanding and demonstrating the health benefits of chronic weight management, the costs associated with the disease, the various health treatments available to reduce this epidemic in Louisiana, the cost savings of prevention and reduction in rates of obesity, and could further promote the use of this data to influence decision-making.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish and provide for the Task Force on Obesity Care, Cost, and Value to study the health implications of obesity and to propose recommendations, together with specific proposals for legislation, by written report to the Senate, governor, and the David

R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than January 15, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force should study and make recommendations on all of the following:

- (1) The health implications of the chronic disease of obesity.
- (2) The cost to Louisiana's health care system associated with the disease.
- (3) The various health treatments available to reduce the epidemic caused by the disease and coverage of treatments within the state.
- (4) The cost of providing access to anti-obesity medications approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for state employees and Medicaid recipients.
- (5) How to promote the use of the data to influence decision making to better understand the cost savings for prevention and treatment of the chronic disease of obesity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following members:

- (1) Two members of the Senate, one of whom shall serve as the chairman of the task force, appointed by the president of the Senate.
- (2) One member who is a licensed certified gastroenterologist and board-certified obesity medicine specialist appointed by the LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans.
- (3) One member who is an obesity expert appointed by the Pennington Biomedical Research Center.
- (4) One member who is a licensed certified pediatrician and board certified in obesity medicine appointed by the Louisiana Obesity Society.
- (5) The commissioner of insurance or his designee.
- (6) The chief executive officer of the Office of Group Benefits or his designee.
- (7) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.
- (8) One member who is a primary care physician certified by the American Board of Obesity Medicine appointed by the Louisiana State Medical Society.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit the names of designees on the task force to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health no later than August 1, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force shall convene for its first meeting no later than September 1, 2024, at the call of the chairman appointed by the Senate president.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their respective organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chancellor of the LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, the executive director of the Pennington Biomedical Research Center, the executive director of the Louisiana Obesity Society, the commissioner of insurance, the chief executive officer of the Office of Group Benefits, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, and the chief executive officer of the Louisiana State Medical Society.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE