

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 131

BY SENATOR NEVERS

A RESOLUTION

To establish the Louisiana Health Care Independence Commission for the purpose of studying all available means and funding to provide health care insurance and health care services for uninsured residents of the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, according to the 2011 Louisiana Health Insurance Survey, there were approximately 655,000 uninsured individuals in Louisiana with the vast majority, 633,000, of those being adults; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2011 Louisiana Health Insurance Survey, at least 290,000 childless adults and parents of Medicaid eligible children between the ages of 19 and 64 live below 138% of federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, the federally facilitated marketplace is a federally created exchange wherein private insurance companies will compete to market health insurance plans to qualified citizens; and

WHEREAS, the federally facilitated marketplace will begin open enrollment on October 1, 2013, providing cost-sharing subsidies for certain qualified individuals; and

WHEREAS, to protect the health, safety, and well-being of residents it is essential that the Legislature of Louisiana gather and study accurate and timely information in order to determine the appropriate health and funding plan or plans, and select optimum means and procedures by which Louisiana may provide health insurance and health care services to the greatest number of its uninsured residents in the most economic and efficient manner utilizing any and all available funding.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish the Louisiana Health Care Independence Commission for the purpose of studying

and making recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana for the optimum means and procedures by which to provide health care services to Louisiana's uninsured residents utilizing any and all funding that is available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Health Care Independence Commission shall be composed of sixteen members as follows:

- (1) One at-large member appointed by the governor.
- (2) The secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, or the secretary's designee.
- (3) The Medicaid Director for the Department of Health and Hospitals.
- (4) The commissioner of the Department of Insurance, or the commissioner's designee.
- (5) The chair of the Louisiana House of Representatives Health and Welfare Committee, or the chair's designee.
- (6) The chair of the Louisiana Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, or the chair's designee.
- (7) The speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives, or his designee.
- (8) The president of the Louisiana Senate, or his designee.
- (9) The LSU System executive vice president for Health Care and Medical Education Redesign, or his designee.
- (10) A representative from the faculty of the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.
- (11) A representative of the Louisiana Hospital Association.
- (12) A representative of the Louisiana Rural Hospital Association.
- (13) A representative of the Louisiana Association of Health Plans.
- (14) A representative from the National Alliance on Mental Illness.
- (15) A representative of the American Association of Retired Persons.
- (16) A representative of the Public Affairs Research Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in making appointments to the commission, the appointing authorities shall seek to provide diversity in the commission's membership, including diversity of geography, race, and gender.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Health Care Independence Commission shall hold its first meeting as soon as practicable but in no event later than thirty days after adjournment sine die of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature on the call of the president of the Louisiana Senate and that at such organizational meeting the commission shall elect a chair, a vice chair, and such other officers as it finds necessary and adopt rules for its procedure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Health Care Independence Commission shall meet upon the call of the chair as often as deemed necessary to carry out its duties, but not less than once a month; that a majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; that members shall serve without compensation, but may receive such per diem or reimbursement for travel and expenses as may be provided by their board, agency or appointing authority; and that the Louisiana Legislature shall provide primary administrative and staff support to the commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall submit a written report containing the commission's findings and proposed recommendations regarding optimum means by which to provide health insurance and health care services to the maximum number of Louisiana citizens on or before September 1, 2013. The commission shall submit its report to the presiding officers of the Louisiana House of Representatives and the Louisiana Senate, and may supplement such report until its termination.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall terminate and all authority for its existence shall end on December 31, 2013.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the president of the Louisiana Senate, the speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives, and to the medicaid director of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE