

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 186

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER

HEALTH/DHH: Requests DHH to protect LSU Health Sciences Center - Shreveport hospitals from consequences of privatization which are detrimental to public health and finance, and to adequately compensate other hospitals of north and central La. for any increased burden of providing care to the poor and uninsured resulting from privatization of public hospitals

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to take actions to protect the  
3 three hospitals of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center - Shreveport  
4 from consequences of privatization which are detrimental to public health and  
5 finance, and to adequately compensate other hospitals of the north Louisiana and  
6 central Louisiana regions for any increased burden of providing care to the poor and  
7 uninsured resulting from privatization of public hospitals.

8 WHEREAS, because the essential fiscal and health policy aspects of cooperative  
9 endeavor agreements to privatize state hospitals are being developed in secret, the following  
10 matters remain unknown to the Legislature of Louisiana as of the date of filing of this  
11 Resolution:

12 (1) Whether the privatization effort will result in cost savings or cost increases to the  
13 state.

14 (2) Whether the privatization effort will improve or jeopardize graduate medical  
15 education and physician training programs.

16 (3) Whether the privatization effort will enhance or diminish access to health care  
17 by those with the greatest need; and

1           WHEREAS, pursuant to R.S. 17:1519.2(B)(3), the Louisiana State University Health  
2 Sciences Center - Shreveport is responsible for the following hospitals, including all  
3 programs and facilities thereof:

4           (1) University Hospital Shreveport.

5           (2) E.A. Conway Medical Center in Monroe.

6           (3) Huey P. Long Medical Center in Pineville; and

7           WHEREAS, these hospitals have long been respected institutions in the north  
8 Louisiana region and throughout the state; and

9           WHEREAS, it is an important public health priority that these hospitals maintain or  
10 enhance their current level of services; and

11           WHEREAS, the vital public health functions of these hospitals are jeopardized by  
12 the current privatization efforts; and

13           WHEREAS, in areas of the state where privatization of public hospitals has  
14 progressed further than in north Louisiana, notably in the Baton Rouge region, much of the  
15 burden of providing care to the poor and uninsured has fallen on private hospitals in the  
16 region surrounding the public hospital; and

17           WHEREAS, providing care to patients formerly served by public hospitals is causing  
18 a severe financial strain on private providers, and current Medicaid funding to those  
19 providers is not sufficient to protect them from financial detriment associated with the  
20 provision of such care; and

21           WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services of the United States  
22 Department of Health and Human Services is authorized under federal law to allow for  
23 changes in state Medicaid programs to serve special populations, compensate for various  
24 health services classified officially as "optional", and allow for innovative means of health  
25 services financing; and

26           WHEREAS, authorization for such changes in a state's Medicaid program may be  
27 granted through a waiver of otherwise applicable federal law and regulations pursuant to  
28 Section 1115 of the Social Security Act, commonly known as "Section 1115 Medicaid  
29 demonstration waivers"; and

1           WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Hospitals has successfully implemented  
2 programs through Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waivers, notably in the New  
3 Orleans region, that have provided accessible, affordable primary care to the poor and  
4 uninsured; and

5           WHEREAS, when implemented effectively, Medicaid waiver programs have the  
6 capacity to substantially improve access to health services, the quality of health care, and the  
7 overall health of patients and families; and

8           WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does  
9 hereby declare that the following are vital public policy priorities of this state:

10           (1) Preserving access to health care services by medically needy patients during and  
11 subsequent to privatization of public hospitals.

12           (2) Mitigating or eliminating any barriers to health care access which medically  
13 needy persons experience as a result of privatization of public hospitals.

14           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
15 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and  
16 Hospitals to take any actions necessary to protect the three hospitals for which the Louisiana  
17 State University Health Sciences Center - Shreveport is responsible from consequences of  
18 privatization which are detrimental to public health and finance, and that such actions may  
19 include but shall not be limited to submission of Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration  
20 waiver applications for any programs or funding which may enhance support for such  
21 hospitals.

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature  
23 of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to take  
24 any actions necessary to adequately compensate other hospitals of the north Louisiana and  
25 central Louisiana regions for any increased burden of providing care to the poor and  
26 uninsured resulting from privatization of public hospitals, and that such actions may include  
27 but shall not be limited to submission of Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver  
28 applications for any programs or funding which may enhance support for such hospitals.

29           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
30 office of the governor, the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, and the

- 1 chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and
- 2 Mechanical College.

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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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Hunter

HR No. 186

Urges and requests DHH to protect the three hospitals of the LSU Health Sciences Center - Shreveport from consequences of privatization which are detrimental to public health and finance; and to adequately compensate other hospitals of north and central La. for any increased burden of providing care to the poor and uninsured resulting from privatization of public hospitals through actions including but not limited to submission of Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver applications.