Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 211

## BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

# HEALTH/DHH: Requests DHH to study means for improving access to and reliability of medical transportation for Medicaid enrollees

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study means for improving
3	access to and reliability of nonemergency medical transportation for Medicaid
4	enrollees and to report its findings to the House Committee on Health and Welfare.
5	WHEREAS, over one million three hundred thousand Louisiana residents are
6	enrolled in the Medicaid program; and
7	WHEREAS, the ability to travel to a health care provider's location is essential for
8	Medicaid enrollees to receive needed care; and
9	WHEREAS, some Medicaid enrollees do not have access to reliable private
10	transportation and must rely on public transportation for travel to and from medical
11	appointments; and
12	WHEREAS, due to recent changes to the state Medicaid program and privatization
13	of the state's public hospitals, the existing public transportation options may no longer
14	provide Medicaid enrollees with sufficient access to healthcare providers; and
15	WHEREAS, dependence on inadequate transportation reduces access to routine,
16	preventative, and other nonemergency medical services; and
17	WHEREAS, reduced access can lead to poor health outcomes, particularly for those
18	who have chronic conditions and multiple diseases, as well as those who stand to benefit
19	from screening, prevention, and health promotion services; and
20	WHEREAS, because of poor access to care, routine conditions can escalate to a need
21	for emergency care; and

1	WHEREAS, many health conditions of Medicaid enrollees can be managed if
2	appropriate care is made available; and
3	WHEREAS, this care can be cost-effective and result in significant cost savings that
4	outweigh added transportation costs; and
5	WHEREAS, great opportunity exists to achieve net societal benefits and to improve
6	the quality of life of Medicaid enrollees by increasing access to nonemergency medical
7	transportation; and
8	WHEREAS, improving access to health care for those with transportation needs can
9	reduce health care costs; and
10	WHEREAS, federal regulations require state Medicaid programs to ensure that
11	recipients have necessary medical transportation to and from covered Medicaid services.
12	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
13	Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and
14	Hospitals to study means for improving access to and reliability of nonemergency medical
15	transportation for Medicaid enrollees.
16	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall provide the findings of this
17	study in the form of a written report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare prior
18	to the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.
19	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
20	secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

## 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)]

### Barrow

HR No. 211

Urges and requests the Dept. of Health and Hospitals to study means for improving access to and reliability of nonemergency medical transportation for Medicaid enrollees and to report its findings to the House Committee on Health and Welfare prior to the 2014 R.S.