

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 201

BY REPRESENTATIVE BROADWATER

HEALTH SERVICES: Requests the Department of Health and Hospitals to study the feasibility of providing Medicaid enrollees with a choice of fiscal/employer agents

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To authorize and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study the feasibility of
3 providing a choice of fiscal/employer agents, including a Louisiana-based option, to
4 Medicaid enrollees who hire a direct service worker as a home-based attendant
5 through a waiver program administered by the department.

6 WHEREAS, the office for citizens with developmental disabilities (OCDD) of the
7 Department of Health and Hospitals is charged with coordinating statewide services in a
8 manner that is accessible to Louisiana individuals and families who require specialized
9 supports and services; and

10 WHEREAS, OCDD is entrusted to ensure that individuals are afforded the
11 opportunity to live in a safe environment while directing their lives based on their desired
12 personal outcomes; and

13 WHEREAS, through the efforts of OCDD, supports and services are provided as a
14 supplement to natural supports while promoting dignity, quality of life, and security in the
15 everyday lives of people; and

16 WHEREAS, OCDD offers community-Based services and supports for persons with
17 disabilities through the Medicaid Home and Community-based Waiver programs; and

18 WHEREAS, these waiver programs allow Louisiana citizens to have greater
19 flexibility to choose where they want to live, and the waiver services and supports that best
20 suit their needs, while still receiving Medicaid State Plan benefits; and

1 WHEREAS, the office of aging and adult services of the Department of Health and
2 Hospitals administers home- and community-based long-term care services through various
3 waiver and state plan programs for individuals who are elderly or have disabilities, assisting
4 them in their homes and in the community; and

5 WHEREAS, a direct service worker is a person who assists an individual to lead a
6 self-directed life and encourages attitudes and behaviors that contribute to the community;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the self-directed service option available through the department's
9 waiver programs allows a Medicaid enrollee to choose a direct service worker to provide
10 necessary services and supports, which maximizes the participant's choice and control over
11 services and supports; and

12 WHEREAS, a fiscal/employer agent provides financial management services for
13 self-directing participants who act as their own employer by assisting with employer payroll
14 responsibilities, without taking away the right of the participant to exercise self-direction;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, a Medicaid enrollee does not currently have the option to choose a
17 fiscal/employer agent when the enrollee hires a direct service worker; and

18 WHEREAS, it is important that a Medicaid enrollee feel assured that the
19 fiscal/employer agent will provide quality, person-centered services that promote
20 accountability and the use of cost-effective resources to address the personal needs of the
21 enrollee; and

22 WHEREAS, allowing a Medicaid enrollee to choose a Louisiana-based
23 fiscal/employer agent will help stimulate economic growth by providing employment
24 opportunities within the local community in which the business is established and will
25 provide a local contact to assist the enrollee with questions and concerns; and

26 WHEREAS, in a world of rapidly changing health care delivery and financing
27 systems, it should be the continuing goal of the Department of Health and Hospitals to
28 develop a system that meets the needs of the participants, and ensures quality and value for
29 Louisiana citizens who choose to receive services in their community.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
2 authorize and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study the feasibility of
3 providing a choice of fiscal/employer agents, including a Louisiana-based option, to
4 Medicaid enrollees who hire a direct service worker as a home-based attendant through a
5 waiver program administered by the department.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall submit a written report of
7 its findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to the
8 issue, to the legislature not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2015 Regular
9 Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
11 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)]

Broadwater

HCR No. 201

Requests the Dept. of Health and Hospitals to study the feasibility of providing a choice of fiscal/employer agents, including a La.-based option, to Medicaid enrollees who hire a direct service worker as a home-based attendant through a waiver program administered by the department.