

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 201

BY REPRESENTATIVE BROADWATER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE