

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 197

BY REPRESENTATIVES PRICE, BARROW, BILLIOT, BROWN, BURFORD, CARMODY, COX, EDWARDS, GAINES, HALL, HOFFMANN, HUNTER, MORENO, PIERRE, PYLANT, THIERRY, AND WILLMOTT

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to establish a study committee on family caregiving and long-term supports and services, and to request the study committee to report recommendations for legislative and administrative actions regarding support for family caregivers and other long-term care providers to the House Committee on Health and Welfare.

WHEREAS, the number of people in Louisiana who are age eighty-five and older and most likely to require assistance from a caregiver as they age is projected to surpass one hundred twenty-six thousand by the year 2030; and

WHEREAS, the majority of older adults who are in need of assistance with activities of daily living prefer to remain in their own homes and communities as they age; and

WHEREAS, providing services and supports to these older adults in their homes and communities is generally less expensive than nursing home care; and

WHEREAS, among the population of older adults living in the community who receive personal assistance, statistics indicate that nearly three-fourths of these citizens rely exclusively on unpaid caregivers for the assistance they need; and

WHEREAS, to successfully accommodate the surging population of older adults who have significant needs for long-term services and supports, this state must implement policies to encourage and support families in assisting their aging relatives and institute best practices for recruiting and retaining a qualified, responsive in-home care workforce.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to establish a study committee on family caregiving and long-term supports and services within the department and staffed by the department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) One member representing AARP Louisiana.
- (2) One member representing the Southern University Department of Social Work.
- (3) One member representing the Louisiana Councils on Aging.
- (4) One member representing the governor's office of elderly affairs.
- (5) One member representing the Advocacy Center.
- (6) One member appointed by the president of the Senate.
- (7) One member appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (8) Two members appointed by the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, one of whom shall be employed with the office for citizens with developmental disabilities and one of whom shall be employed with the office of aging and adult services.
- (9) One member representing the Homecare Association of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appointing entities shall submit the names of study committee members to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, referred to hereafter as "the department", on or before October 1, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the committee shall serve without per diem or any other form of compensation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the department shall call the first meeting of the study committee on or before November 1, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at its first meeting, the study committee shall elect from among its members a chairman and any other officers it deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall review options for decreasing the waiting list for waiver services presently offered by the department and investigate any efficiencies in the provision of long-term care and supports as well as families assisting their aging relatives to remain in their homes and communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall explore the impact of the reduction of reimbursement rates for home- and community-based services and the difficulties in providing these essential services for an increasing population.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall explore and research the numerous policies that may result in duplicative, excessive, and conflicting responses from providers in the process of administering home- and community-based services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall include in its inquiry decisions by the department regarding providers of in-home services and any trends indicated by these decisions that might negatively impact these providers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall explore strategies that would result in a rate of pay to providers of these services that is more reflective of the administrative requirements of the service providers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall examine the numbers of providers of home- and community-based services who have left the industry over the last decade and determine how to ensure that a sufficient number of providers are available to provide these vital services to Louisiana's aging population.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall submit a written report of its findings, including any recommendations for legislation or administrative action, to the House Committee on Health and Welfare on or before March 1, 2016, at which time legislative authority for the study committee shall terminate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, the state director of AARP Louisiana, the chair of the Southern University Department of Social Work, the executive director of the Louisiana Councils on Aging, the executive director of the governor's office of elderly affairs, the executive director of the Homecare Association of Louisiana, the executive director of the Advocacy Center, and the president of the Senate.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES