

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 173

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

HEALTH CARE/FACILITIES: Urges the Dept. of Health and Hospitals not to establish freestanding emergency departments as a type of licensed facility in this state

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals not to establish freestanding
3 emergency departments as a type of licensed healthcare facility in this state.

4 WHEREAS, a freestanding emergency department is a type of healthcare facility that
5 is structurally separate and distinct from a hospital and provides emergency care; and

6 WHEREAS, as a matter of health and fiscal policy, whether a state should license
7 freestanding emergency departments is a highly controversial issue; and

8 WHEREAS, studies on this issue in states that have considered licensure of
9 freestanding emergency departments consistently find that allowing these facilities to
10 operate would impede the states' efforts to contain health care costs; and

11 WHEREAS, in states that allow freestanding emergency departments to operate, the
12 facilities tend to be highly profitable for their owners, generating a large volume of business
13 even when located in close proximity to existing hospital emergency rooms; and

14 WHEREAS, hospital emergency rooms are the costliest healthcare setting in our
15 state's health system; and

16 WHEREAS, because freestanding emergency departments charge higher prices than
17 hospital emergency rooms, allowing freestanding emergency departments to operate in
18 Louisiana would exacerbate the problem of healthcare cost inflation in this state; and

19 WHEREAS, the establishment of freestanding emergency departments would also
20 impede the efforts of this state to better coordinate care for our medically needy population,
21 as these facilities have the potential to induce people to use them for nonemergency
22 conditions in lieu of seeing a primary care physician; and

1 WHEREAS, if this state is to enhance access to care and improve the overall health
2 of our population, strategies for achieving these goals should include provision of greater
3 levels of primary care and development of a robust network of hospital-affiliated clinics in
4 underserved areas rather than establish a new type of licensed healthcare facility that
5 provides costly and unnecessary services.

6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
7 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and
8 Hospitals not to establish freestanding emergency departments as a type of licensed
9 healthcare facility in this state.

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)]

HR 173 Engrossed

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Leger

Urges and requests the Department of Health and Hospitals not to establish freestanding emergency departments as a type of licensed healthcare facility.