

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 55

BY REPRESENTATIVE NORTON

MENTAL HEALTH: Creates a task force to study Louisiana's current statewide system of healthcare delivery for Medicaid enrollees with serious mental illness

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create the Medicaid Integrated Care Assessment Task Force to make a thorough study
3 and evaluation of Louisiana's current statewide system of healthcare delivery for
4 Medicaid enrollees with serious mental illness.

5 WHEREAS, the mental health and well-being of the residents of Louisiana is a vital
6 issue that affects not only quality of life, but also the health of communities, families, and
7 economic stability; and

8 WHEREAS, nearly forty-four million adults in the United States live with mental
9 illness and twenty percent of children and adolescents have a diagnosable mental health
10 disorder; and

11 WHEREAS, one in twenty-five individuals in the United States has lived with a
12 serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depression; and

13 WHEREAS, studies note that individuals with serious mental illness die, on average,
14 twenty-five years earlier than individuals in the general population; and

15 WHEREAS, individuals with mental illness, behavioral health disorders, or
16 co-occurring substance use disorders can recover through treatment that includes
17 psychosocial therapy, clinical treatment, and peer support, alone or in combination with
18 behavioral, psychiatric, psychological, or integrated medical services; and

19 WHEREAS, parents, families, and caregivers are allies in recovery and serve as
20 critical members of the care delivery team; and

1 WHEREAS, the unintended consequence of untreated mental illness results in a
2 negative financial and social impact on Louisiana including an ever-increasing burden on
3 the criminal justice system; and

4 WHEREAS, the legislature declares that, due to compelling moral and economic
5 reasons, it is in the best interest of Louisiana to study and evaluate the state's current
6 statewide system of healthcare delivery for Medicaid enrollees with serious mental illness.

7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
8 create the Medicaid Integrated Care Assessment Task Force, hereafter referred to as the
9 "task force".

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of
11 representatives assigned from relevant state agencies, interested state medical and behavioral
12 health services provider associations, and other relevant and interested parties, including but
13 not limited to all of the following:

- 14 (1) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.
- 15 (2) The assistant secretary of the office of behavioral health, Louisiana
16 Department of Health or his designee.
- 17 (3) The director of the Medicaid program of the Louisiana Department of Health
18 or his designee.
- 19 (4) The director of the health standards section of the Louisiana Department of
20 Health or his designee.
- 21 (5) The deputy secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections,
22 youth services, office of juvenile justice or his designee.
- 23 (6) The state superintendent of education or his designee.
- 24 (7) The president of the Louisiana School Counselor Association or his designee.
- 25 (8) The chairperson of the Louisiana Mental Health Planning Council or his
26 designee.
- 27 (9) The executive director of the Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors
28 Board of Examiners or his designee.
- 29 (10) The executive director of the Louisiana Counseling Association or his
30 designee.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is assigned to the Louisiana
2 Department of Health, with staff support to be provided from existing personnel within the
3 department.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Louisiana Department of
5 Health or his designee shall serve as chairman of the task force.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, at the first meeting of the task force, the
7 members shall elect a vice chairman and other officers as they may deem appropriate.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force shall receive no
9 compensation for their services and shall serve at no expense to the state.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be domiciled in Baton Rouge
11 but may hold public meetings elsewhere in the state.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of the task force is to make a
13 thorough study and evaluation of Louisiana's current statewide system of healthcare delivery
14 for Medicaid enrollees with serious mental illness and render objective, fiscally feasible
15 recommendations to the legislature for the implementation of policies that could be adopted
16 by the state for the delivery of integrated physical and behavioral health services for
17 Medicaid enrollees with serious mental illness.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in conducting the study and evaluation, the task
19 force shall engage and work in cooperation with the human service districts and authorities.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a report of its
21 findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation if necessary, no later than
22 sixty days prior to the convening of the 2019 Regular Legislative Session.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative authority for the task force shall
24 terminate on December 31, 2019.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Louisiana Department of
26 Health or his designee shall convene the task force for its first meeting no later than October
27 1, 2017.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted
29 to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

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)]

HCR 55 Engrossed

2017 Regular Session

Norton

Creates the Medicaid Integrated Care Assessment Task Force to make a thorough study and evaluation of La.'s current statewide system of healthcare delivery for Medicaid enrollees with serious mental illness.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Add the president of the La. Association of Behavioral Health Providers and the president of the La. State Nurses Association as members of the task force.
2. Make technical changes.