

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 161

BY SENATOR CARTER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health, bureau of emergency medical services, to convene a working group to study the delivery of 911 emergency medical services throughout the state and report findings and recommendations regarding 911 emergency call takers to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on or before February 1, 2019.

WHEREAS, emergency medical services represent the combined efforts of several professionals and agencies to provide pre-hospital emergency care to the sick and injured; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services constitute the difference between life and death for thousands of Louisiana citizens each day; and

WHEREAS, an individual's entry into the emergency medical services system is most often through placement of a 911 emergency call; and

WHEREAS, 911 created the need for fire, police, and medical emergency responders to function with a degree of uniformity that was not previously in existence; and

WHEREAS, 911 in Louisiana is a parish-based system in which all serve a similar purpose, but no two systems are identical; and

WHEREAS, when a person dials 911, the call is routed to a pre-determined location and answered by a call taker who determines the nature of the emergency and either handles the request himself or routes it to the appropriate public safety agency; and

WHEREAS, who performs the call-taker function and what happens after they initiate discussion with the caller varies widely across the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the Louisiana Department of Health, bureau of emergency medical services, to convene a working group to study the delivery of 911 emergency medical

services throughout the state and report findings and recommendations regarding 911 emergency call takers to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on or before February 1, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall consist of the following:

(1) The executive director of the bureau of emergency medical services, within the Louisiana Department of Health, who shall serve as the chair of the working group.

(2) The executive director of the Louisiana Emergency Response Network, or his designee.

(3) The state fire marshal, or his designee.

(4) The superintendent of the Louisiana State Police, or his designee.

(5) The director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, or his designee.

(6) The executive director of the Louisiana Municipal Association, or his designee.

(7) The executive director of the Louisiana Sheriff's Association, or his designee.

(8) The executive director of the Louisiana Firefighter's Association, or his designee.

(9) The executive director of the Louisiana Ambulance Alliance, or his designee.

(10) The executive director of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Emergency Number Association, or his designee.

(11) The executive director of the Louisiana Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communication Officials, or his designee.

(12) The executive director of the Louisiana Wireless Information Network, or his designee.

(13) The director of the Greater Southeast Affiliate of the American Heart Association, or his designee.

(14) One member representing ambulance service providers in a rural area appointed by the Louisiana Ambulance Alliance.

(15) One member representing ambulance service providers in an urban area appointed by the Louisiana Ambulance Alliance.

(16) One member appointed by the chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

(17) The executive director of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall be convened by the executive director of the bureau of emergency medical services, within the Louisiana Department of Health, on or before September 1, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall study and make recommendations to the legislature on the organization, funding, structure, and qualifications of 911 emergency call takers in Louisiana, including any recommendation for state licensure and regulation of 911 call takers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to bureau of emergency medical services, within the Louisiana Department of Health, Louisiana Emergency Response Network, State Fire Marshal, Louisiana State Police, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Louisiana Municipal Association, Louisiana Sheriff's Association, Louisiana Firefighter's Association, Louisiana Ambulance Alliance, Louisiana Chapter of the National Emergency Number Association, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, Louisiana Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communication Officials, Louisiana Wireless Information Network, and the American Heart Association.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE