

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 122

BY SENATOR BARROW AND REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To continue and provide with respect to the task force to study health services delivery and financing in the Baton Rouge region created by House Concurrent Resolution No. 129 of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature and continued by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4 of the 2016 Regular Session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, through Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4 of the 2016 Regular Session, the legislature continued the establishment of a task force to study health services delivery and financing in the Baton Rouge region; and

WHEREAS, the task force is composed of nineteen members who individually and collectively possess significant expertise in major aspects of the state's healthcare system, such as direct provision of health services, healthcare financing, development of a healthcare workforce, and public health advocacy; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the task force has held regular public meetings to examine issues related to health services delivery and financing in the Baton Rouge region including without limitation the following:

- (1) Barriers to access to healthcare faced by low- to moderate-income persons.
- (2) Impacts of cuts to federal disproportionate share hospital funding provided through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that finance expansion of Medicaid programs of states which elect to participate in Medicaid expansion.
- (3) Effects on public health of the closure of the state-operated public hospital in Baton Rouge and privatization of the services formerly delivered there.
- (4) Impacts on private hospitals which do not operate under a cooperative endeavor agreement with the state of providing uncompensated care.
- (5) Policies which could expand the capacity of public and private urgent care clinics to meet the healthcare needs of medically underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, considering the profound changes in healthcare delivery and financing in Baton Rouge that have occurred in the past several years, dramatically impacting access to care in the city and surrounding region, the efforts of this task force are vitally important at present and will remain so in the near term; and

WHEREAS, as evidenced by final passage of House Bill No. 1493 of the 2010 Regular Session requiring reports to the legislature relative to privatization of services of the Earl K. Long Medical Center, which was the first of nine hospitals in the state's ten-hospital system to be privatized, and by extensive debate concerning the state health system in every session since 2010, the legislature continues to express deep concern about the fiscal and public health consequences of hospital privatization since the outset of the privatization efforts; and

WHEREAS, these circumstances are of serious concern to policymakers at the city, regional, and state level; and

WHEREAS, for the foregoing reasons, continuation of the task force's efforts is a priority of the legislature.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby continue the task force to study and make recommendations concerning health services delivery and financing in the Baton Rouge region created by House Concurrent Resolution No. 129 of the 2015 Regular Session and continued by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4 of the 2016 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative authority for the task force shall continue through December 31, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership and purposes of the task force shall continue as provided in House Concurrent Resolution No. 129 of the 2015 Regular Session and continued by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4 of the 2016 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a report to the senate and house committees on health and welfare on or before December 31, 2018, outlining the work and recommendations of the task force to date and providing a plan for ongoing study of the issue of health services delivery and financing in the Baton Rouge region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a report to the senate and house committees on health and welfare on or before the termination date of the task force on December 31, 2019, with final recommendations of the task force regarding the issue of health services delivery and financing in the Baton Rouge region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the mayor-president of East Baton Rouge Parish, the chief executive officer of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, the chief executive officer of Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, the chief executive officer of the Baton Rouge General Health System, the chief executive officer of Lane Regional Medical Center, the chief executive officer of Ochsner Health System, the coroner of East Baton Rouge Parish, the administrator of East Baton Rouge Parish Emergency Medical Services, the chief executive officer of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, the president of the Louisiana AFL-CIO, the lead organizer of Together Baton Rouge, the president of the Capital Area Medical Society, the president of the Campaign for Healthcare for Everyone - Louisiana, the president of the Louisiana Center for Health Equity, and the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES