
DIGEST

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HR 19 Engrossed

2020 First Extraordinary Session

Willard

Directs the La. Department of Health and the Department of Veterans Affairs to implement certain policies to protect the health and safety of long-term care facility residents.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Add the Department of Veterans Affairs (LDVA) as an agency that is subject to the directives of the Resolution.
2. Delete requirements for the establishment and administration of a statewide long-term care emergency response task force.
3. Revise provisions requiring long-term care facilities to establish and implement a COVID-19 testing protocol to require instead that the La. Department of Health (LDH) and LDVA provide all long-term care facilities the ability to follow protocols of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), or other federal or state protocols, to use testing to verify that all facility residents and staff are free of COVID-19 infection.
4. Delete a requirement that a state-operated web platform containing COVID-19 data from long-term care facilities make de-identified data available immediately upon reporting.
5. Delete requirements that LDH establish a protocol for steps that each long-term care facility must take once a resident or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and that this protocol be implemented by each such facility.
6. Revise a requirement relative to establishment of an isolation protocol to require instead that LDH and LDVA provide CDC-recommended isolation protocols, including but not limited to cohorting, for long-term care facility residents who test positive for COVID-19.
7. Delete a requirement that LDH implement the use of personal information forms for each long-term care facility resident to allow all staff to quickly identify essential information about the person to help maintain a stable and comforting environment.

8. Require that LDH and LDVA establish a clear process for stakeholders and patient advocacy organizations to communicate pressing issues and implement solutions.
9. Provide that the policies set forth in the Resolution shall be implemented as long as LDH and LDVA accept state and federal funding to address the COVID-19 pandemic.