

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 107

BY REPRESENTATIVE MAGEE

MEDICAID MANAGED CARE: Requests the La. Department of Health to ensure that Medicaid managed care organizations cover and pay for certain respiratory panels

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to ensure that Medicaid managed
3 care organizations cover and pay for certain respiratory panels.

4 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented public health
5 emergency due to which, as of March, 2021, more than ten thousand Louisianans have lost
6 their lives; and

7 WHEREAS, the most effective way to reduce the pandemic's devastation is to
8 quickly detect and treat COVID-19 and other respiratory infections; and

9 WHEREAS, because of the pandemic, utilization of respiratory panels increased as
10 a means of detecting not only the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 but other
11 potential respiratory infections which might complicate a patient's diagnosis and treatment
12 options; and

13 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health has recognized the need for the
14 Medicaid program of this state to cover and pay for laboratory testing for COVID-19 and
15 other respiratory infections, particularly when the testing utilizes high-throughput
16 technology; and

17 WHEREAS, as utilization of respiratory panels increased, certain health insurers,
18 managed care companies, and other payors began to demand that clinical laboratories accept
19 reduced reimbursement and to deny coverage of and payment for laboratory tests ordered
20 by healthcare practitioners after examinations of patients; and

1 WHEREAS, when ordered by a healthcare practitioner, these respiratory panels
2 provide a useful and effective means of identifying, quickly treating, and limiting the spread
3 of serious respiratory infections.

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
5 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health
6 to ensure that the Medicaid managed care organizations with which it contracts cover and
7 pay for, without unnecessary restrictions, respiratory panels that include testing for
8 SARS-CoV-2 performed by healthcare providers conducting clinical diagnostic laboratory
9 tests ordered by Louisiana-licensed health professionals for Medicaid beneficiaries for the
10 detection or diagnosis of respiratory infections.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
12 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and to the director of Louisiana Managed
13 Medicaid Association.

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 107 Engrossed

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Magee

Urges and requests the La. Department of Health to ensure that Medicaid managed care organizations cover and pay for certain respiratory panels.