

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUSTIN MILLER

HEALTH: Creates and provides for the Health Inequities and Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create the Health Inequities and Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force, to provide for the
3 composition and duties of the task force, and to require the task force to report
4 findings and recommendations to the legislative committees on health and welfare.

5 WHEREAS, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control and
6 Prevention, overall health outcomes for African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and
7 American Indians in this country are far poorer than for white people; and

8 WHEREAS, vast health disparities persist in this country, particularly in rural areas,
9 and many have worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, rural areas comprise roughly eighty percent of Louisiana's total geographic area; and

12 WHEREAS, nearly twenty-six percent of our state's population, totaling more than
13 one million two hundred thousand Louisianans, live in rural communities; and

WHEREAS, sixty-three of Louisiana's sixty-four parishes are classified as health professional shortage areas according to the standards of the federal Health Resources and Services Administration; and

17 WHEREAS, approximately ninety-eight percent of this state's entire population lives
18 in metropolitan areas.

WHEREAS, the vast majority of Louisiana's rural communities are medically

1 population remain underfunded and few are guided by local stakeholders or locally
2 conducted needs assessments; and

3 WHEREAS, in consideration of the findings set forth in this Resolution, the
4 legislature hereby declares that improving health outcomes in rural communities is a critical
5 public health priority of this state.

6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
7 create the Health Inequities and Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the
9 following members:

10 (1) The president of the board of directors of the Louisiana State Nurses Association
11 or his designee.

12 (2) The Louisiana State Nurses Association advocacy chair for District 4 of the
13 association or his designee.

14 (3) The executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing or his designee.

15 (4) The executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners or his
16 designee.

17 (5) The dean of the Southern University School of Nursing or his designee.

18 (6) The president of the board of directors of the Louisiana Association of Nurse
19 Practitioners or his designee.

20 (7) The chief executive officer of the Louisiana State Medical Society or his
21 designee.

22 (8) The chief operating officer of the Rural Hospital Coalition, Inc. or his designee.

23 (9) The president of the Louisiana Hospital Association or his designee.

24 (10) The executive director of the Louisiana Rural Health Association or his
25 designee.

26 (11) The executive director of the Louisiana Primary Care Association or his
27 designee.

28 (12) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.

29 (13) The executive director of the Louisiana Managed Medicaid Association or his
30 designee.

- 1 (14) The state director of AARP Louisiana or his designee.
2 (15) A certified nurse midwife appointed by the executive director of the Louisiana
3 State Board of Nursing.
4 (16) The president of the board of directors of the Louisiana Academy of Family
5 Physicians or his designee.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the duties of the task force shall include, without
7 limitation, all of the following:

- 8 (1) Identifying the key drivers of health disparities in rural areas.
9 (2) Considering social determinants of health in developing recommendations for
10 delivering high-quality health care in rural areas.
11 (3) Studying practicable solutions for reducing healthcare provider shortages in rural
12 communities of Louisiana.
13 (4) Collaborating with health professional licensing boards of this state to draft
14 proposals for legislation that will foster greater access to care for rural residents.
15 (5) Developing proposals for healthcare workforce training initiatives which
16 promote diversity in health professions.
17 (6) Studying the impact of access to broadband internet and other technologies that
18 facilitate wider deployment of telehealth and telemedicine services and thereby improve
19 access to care in rural areas.
20 (7) Serving as a resource for parish governments to build partnerships for
21 community outreach to address social determinants of health in rural communities.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Louisiana Department of
23 Health shall convene the first meeting of the task force no later than August 15, 2022.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, at its first meeting, the task force shall select
25 from among its members a chairperson and any other officers it deems necessary for the
26 functioning of the group.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may adopt rules of procedure and
28 any other policies as may be necessary to facilitate the work of the group.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before March 1, 2023, the task force shall
30 submit to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and

1 Welfare, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library a report of its findings and
2 recommendations.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that legislative authority for the task force shall
4 terminate on July 1, 2023.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
6 president of the board of directors and the advocacy chair for District 4 of the Louisiana
7 State Nurses Association, the executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, the
8 executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, the dean of the
9 Southern University School of Nursing, the president of the board of directors of the
10 Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners, the chief executive officer of the Louisiana
11 State Medical Society, the chief operating officer of the Rural Hospital Coalition, Inc., the
12 president of the Louisiana Hospital Association, the executive director of the Louisiana
13 Rural Health Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Primary Care Association,
14 the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the executive director of the Louisiana
15 Managed Medicaid Association, the state director of AARP Louisiana, and the president of
16 the board of directors of the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians.

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 44 Original

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Dustin Miller

Creates and provides for the duties of a 16-member Health Inequities and Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force.

Requires the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the legislative committees on health and welfare on or before March 1, 2023.