

2022 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 38

BY SENATOR TALBOT

HEALTH CARE. Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to study programs implemented in other states or through Medicaid waiver programs to evaluate options for delaying institutionalization for frail elders.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study programs implemented in
3 other states or through Medicaid waiver programs to evaluate options for delaying
4 institutionalization for frail elders.

5 WHEREAS, the number of people in Louisiana who are age eighty-five and older
6 and are most likely to require caregiving assistance is projected to surpass one hundred
7 twenty-six thousand by the year 2030; and

8 WHEREAS, the majority of elders who are in need of assistance with activities of
9 daily living prefer to remain in their own homes and communities as they age; and

10 WHEREAS, to successfully accommodate the surging population of elders who have
11 significant healthcare needs, this state must implement policies to encourage and support
12 families in assisting their aging relatives and institute best practices for recruiting and
13 retaining a qualified, responsive, in-home care workforce; and

14 WHEREAS, Louisiana treasures its elders, as they are the living heritage of our
15 families and our rich and wonderful culture; and

16 WHEREAS, ensuring the safety and well-being of our elders is a critical public
17 policy priority of this state; and

18 WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature of Louisiana that frail elders be

1 provided human services in the least restrictive settings where they may enjoy, for as long
2 as possible, their independence in a home- and community-based setting with a high quality
3 of life before a transition to institutional care is necessary.

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
5 does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study various programs
6 implemented in other states, or through waiver programs approved by the Centers for
7 Medicare and Medicaid Services, for the purpose of evaluating options for home- and
8 community-based services for frail elders to provide them with a sustained quality of life at
9 home and delay the need for nursing home or other institutional placement.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study required by this
11 Resolution, the department shall focus, at a minimum, on answering the following questions:

12 (1) Can a program for frail elders to remain at home with community-based supports
13 delay the need for institutionalization and enhance the quality of life for the individuals who
14 otherwise qualify for nursing home admission?

15 (2) Recognizing the importance of the financial stability of the nursing home industry
16 in Louisiana, is there a model which incentivizes the sharing of savings between the state
17 and the nursing home when a frail elder, who otherwise qualifies for nursing home
18 placement, is able to delay admission to a nursing home while receiving community-based
19 supports?

20 (3) What has been the experience of states with a large population of frail elders
21 which have implemented nursing home diversion programs?

22 (4) If the state were to implement a nursing home diversion program, what would the
23 impact be on nursing homes in terms of capacity and volume, and would the moratorium on
24 new nursing home beds help ensure the ongoing financial sustainability for existing nursing
25 homes?

26 (5) Based on the experience of other states, which financial models work best to
27 incentivize the delayed use of institutionalization without financial detriment to nursing
28 homes?

29 (6) What role will care coordination play in ensuring the success of delaying nursing
30 home care, and what is the best model for incentivizing accountable and appropriate care

