

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 38

BY SENATOR TALBOT

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request 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.

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature of Louisiana that frail elders be provided human services in the least restrictive settings where they may enjoy, for as long as possible, their independence in a home- and community-based setting with a high quality of life before a transition to institutional care is necessary.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study various programs

implemented in other states, or through waiver programs approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, for the purpose of evaluating options for home- and community-based services for frail elders to provide them with a sustained quality of life at home and delay the need for nursing home or other institutional placement.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than February 1, 2023, the department shall prepare and submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772.

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ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE