

1 WHEREAS, the vast majority of Louisiana's rural communities are medically
2 underserved by all established measures, yet programs to address the healthcare needs of this
3 population remain underfunded and few are guided by local stakeholders or locally
4 conducted needs assessments; and

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

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
9 create the Health Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the
11 following members:

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

14 (2) One member who possesses postgraduate degrees in both nursing and business
15 administration appointed by the director of clinical practice, health policy, and advocacy of
16 the Louisiana State Nurses Association.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2 (13) The president of the board of directors of the Louisiana Managed Medicaid
3 Association or his designee.

4 (14) The state director of AARP Louisiana or his designee.

5 (15) A certified nurse midwife appointed by the executive director of the Louisiana
6 State Board of Nursing.

7 (16) The president of the board of directors of the Louisiana Academy of Family
8 Physicians or his designee.

9 (17) One primary care physician from each of the six Louisiana congressional
10 districts appointed by the president of the board of directors of the Louisiana Academy of
11 Family Physicians.

12 (18) The president of the Louisiana Council of Administrators in Nursing Education
13 or his designee.

14 (19) The president of the Black Nurses Association of Acadiana or his designee.

15 (20) The president of the Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association.

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

18 (1) Identifying the key drivers of health disparities in rural areas.

19 (2) Considering social determinants of health in developing recommendations for
20 delivering high-quality health care in rural areas.

21 (3) Studying practicable solutions for reducing healthcare provider shortages in rural
22 communities of Louisiana.

23 (4) Collaborating with health professional licensing boards of this state to draft
24 proposals for legislation that will foster greater access to care for rural residents.

25 (5) Developing proposals for healthcare workforce training initiatives which
26 promote diversity in health professions.

27 (6) Studying the impact of access to broadband internet and other technologies that
28 facilitate wider deployment of telehealth and telemedicine services and thereby improve
29 access to care in rural areas.

1 (7) Serving as a resource for parish governments to build partnerships for
2 community outreach to address social determinants of health in rural communities.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be a subcommittee of the
4 Statewide Health Equity Consortium within the Louisiana Department of Health.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Statewide Health Equity Consortium shall
6 convene the first meeting of the task force no later than August 15, 2022.

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

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

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before March 1, 2023, the task force shall
13 submit to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and
14 Welfare, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library a report of its findings and
15 recommendations.

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

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
19 president of the board of directors and the director of clinical practice, health policy, and
20 advocacy of the Louisiana State Nurses Association, the executive director of the Louisiana
21 State Board of Nursing, the executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Medical
22 Examiners, the dean of the Southern University School of Nursing, the president of the board
23 of directors of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners, the chief executive officer
24 of the Louisiana State Medical Society, the chief operating officer of the Rural Hospital
25 Coalition, Inc., the president of the Louisiana Hospital Association, the executive director
26 of the Louisiana Rural Health Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Primary
27 Care Association, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the president of the
28 board of directors of the Louisiana Managed Medicaid Association, the state director of
29 AARP Louisiana, the president of the board of directors of the Louisiana Academy of
30 Family Physicians, the president of the Louisiana Council of Administrators in Nursing

- 1 Education, the president of the Black Nurses Association of Acadiana, and the president of
2 the Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association.
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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 Engrossed

2022 Regular Session

Dustin Miller

Creates the 25-member Health Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force as a subcommittee of the Statewide Health Equity Consortium within the La. Department of Health and provides for the duties of the 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.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Change the name of the task force from the "Health Inequities and Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force" to the "Health Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force".
2. Change the qualifications of one task force member to be appointed by the La. State Nurses Association.
3. Change the representative of the La. Managed Medicaid Association on the task force from the association's executive director or his designee to the president of the association's board or his designee.
4. Add the following persons as members of the task force:
 - a. One primary care physician from each of the six La. congressional districts appointed by the president of the board of directors of the La. Academy of Family Physicians.
 - b. The president of the La. Council of Administrators in Nursing Education or his designee.
 - c. The president of the Black Nurses Association of Acadiana or his designee.
 - d. The president of the La. Independent Pharmacies Association.
5. Require the Statewide Health Equity Consortium, rather than the secretary of the La. Department of Health, to convene the first meeting of the task force.