

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 111

BY REPRESENTATIVE STAGNI

HEALTH/LDH: Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to examine options to improve reimbursement rates for residential substance abuse treatment facilities in the state

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to examine options to improve  
3 reimbursement rates for residential substance abuse treatment facilities in the state.

4 WHEREAS, in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic spread throughout the state,  
5 some costs associated with securing quality providers, transportation, and dietary needs for  
6 our critically fragile substance abuse patients skyrocketed; and

7 WHEREAS, even with the workforce slowly returning back to its pre-pandemic  
8 operations, residential substance abuse treatment reimbursement rates are behind nursing  
9 home and psychiatric inpatient rates; and

10 WHEREAS, there is continuous competition for essential behavioral health providers  
11 in the state; and

12 WHEREAS, the level of acuity of patients seeking services at residential substance  
13 abuse facilities continues to rise; and

14 WHEREAS, Louisiana risks unintended outcomes and potential safety concerns for  
15 those in desperate need of addiction treatment; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2020, nearly ninety-two thousand people died in the United States  
17 from drug overdose; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2015, unintentional poisoning from a drug overdose was the number  
19 one cause of injury-related death in the United States for adults ages twenty-five to sixty-  
20 four, killing more than forty thousand people annually; and

1           WHEREAS, according to the National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics (NCDAS),  
2 fifty-three million, or nineteen and four-tenths percent, of people ages twelve and older have  
3 used illegal drugs or misused prescription drugs within the last year; and

4           WHEREAS, NCDAS finds that one hundred sixty-five million, or sixty and two-  
5 tenths percent, of Americans ages twelve and older currently abuse drugs if alcohol and  
6 tobacco are included; and

7           WHEREAS, the Medicaid program in this state currently reimburses residential  
8 substance abuse treatment providers at a rate that is thirty percent lower than Mississippi.

9           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
10 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to explore and consider all options  
11 available to improve reimbursement rates for residential substance abuse treatment providers  
12 to ensure stable and quality services for those with behavioral healthcare needs.

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall study  
14 all of the following:

15           (1) Rate comparison and service array relative to Mississippi.

16           (2) Analysis of rising costs and the impact of COVID-19.

17           (3) The feasibility of the use of Opioid Legal Settlement Funds in a trust fund, a  
18 self-assessed provider fee to improve funding through federal matching options, or any  
19 combination of the two.

20           (4) Analysis of parity between psychiatric inpatient rates and inpatient substance  
21 abuse rates.

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall make  
23 a written report of its findings and recommendations, including but not limited to  
24 suggestions for mechanisms for rate increases, to the Legislature of Louisiana no later than  
25 January 1, 2023.

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

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)]

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HCR 111 Engrossed

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Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to examine options to improve reimbursement rates for residential substance abuse treatment facilities in the state.

Requests a report of the department's findings no later than January 1, 2023.