

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 100

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUSTIN MILLER

HEALTH CARE: Continues the Health Inequities and Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To continue the Health Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force created in the 2022 Regular
3 Session of the Legislature of Louisiana pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution No.
4 44 to identify and study key health issues affecting rural areas and develop strategies
5 to improve health outcomes for rural and under-served communities and to submit
6 a written report to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare by March
7 1st, 2024.

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

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

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

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

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

20 WHEREAS, approximately ninety-eight percent of this state's entire population lives
21 in a federally designated health professional shortage area; and

1 WHEREAS, the vast majority of Louisiana's rural communities are medically under-
2 served 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 (21) One member of the Clinicians of Color Workgroup.

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (6) Studying the impact of access to broadband internet and other technologies that
29 facilitate wider deployment of telehealth and telemedicine services and thereby improve
30 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 a meeting of the task force no later than August 15, 2023.

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 members shall be given reasonable notice
11 of the meetings of the Health Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any member that fails to attend two consecutive
13 meetings shall subject to removal by a majority vote of the task force.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if a member of the task force is removed, the
15 chairperson may nominate a new member, who will become a member by majority vote of
16 the current members of the task force.

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

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before March 1, 2024, the task force shall
20 submit to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and
21 Welfare, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library a report of its findings and
22 recommendations.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
24 president of the board of directors and the director of clinical practice, health policy, and
25 advocacy of the Louisiana State Nurses Association, the executive director of the Louisiana
26 State Board of Nursing, the executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Medical
27 Examiners, the dean of the Southern University School of Nursing, the president of the board
28 of directors of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners, the chief executive officer
29 of the Louisiana State Medical Society, the chief operating officer of the Rural Hospital
30 Coalition, Inc., the president of the Louisiana Hospital Association, the executive director

1 of the Louisiana Rural Health Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Primary
2 Care Association, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the president of the
3 board of directors of the Louisiana Managed Medicaid Association, the state director of
4 AARP Louisiana, the president of the board of directors of the Louisiana Academy of
5 Family Physicians, the president of the Louisiana Council of Administrators in Nursing
6 Education, the president of the Black Nurses Association of Acadiana, and the president of
7 the Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association.

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 100 Original

2023 Regular Session

Dustin Miller

Continues the 21-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, 2024.