2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 92

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES

HEALTH/LDH: Requests study by Louisiana Department of Health to consider Medicaid coverage of gene therapy

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study the feasibility of funding
3	gene therapy for all sickle cell patients via Medicaid.
4	WHEREAS, sickle cell anemia is a genetic disease that, according to the Centers for
5	Disease Control and Prevention, affects approximately one in every three hundred sixty-five
6	African American babies; and
7	WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana, through its recent efforts to create a statewide
8	registry of sickle cell patients, estimates that there are thousands of Louisiana residents with
9	sickle cell anemia; and
10	WHEREAS, in 2020, over one thousand four hundred individuals in Louisiana were
11	hospitalized for symptoms related to sickle cell anemia with an average hospital stay of
12	thirty days; and
13	WHEREAS, research shows that one in every ten children with sickle cell anemia
14	will have a symptomatic stroke by the age of twenty; and
15	WHEREAS, until recently, the only means of a cure for sickle cell anemia was a
16	bone marrow transplant; however, statistics show that very few patients are medically
17	eligible for such a procedure; and
18	WHEREAS, recent breakthroughs in medical research have led to new gene therapy
19	treatments that could save the lives of sickle cell patients; and
20	WHEREAS, such medical advancements could soon be approved by the United
21	States Food and Drug Administration by the end of the 2023 calendar year; and

1	WHEREAS, while gene therapy is believed to cure sickle cell disease and the
2	symptoms resulting therefrom, such therapy is predicted to be costly; and
3	WHEREAS, a financing mechanism to provide this care is needed as the projected
4	cost of the treatment is over one million dollars per patient; and
5	WHEREAS, the state has used innovative financing models to provide critical access
6	for other high cost medications, such as those needed for patients with hepatitis C; and
7	WHEREAS, the state's financing models for such services could serve as a model for
8	financing similar arrangements for patients with sickle cell anemia; and
9	WHEREAS, implementation of this potentially life-saving treatment could lead to
10	a substantially improved quality of life for thousands of Louisiana residents.
11	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
12	urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study the feasibility of funding gene
13	therapy for all sickle cell patients via Medicaid.
14	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall
15	develop findings and recommendations concerning this topic and submit its findings in the
16	form of a written report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, Senate Committee
17	on Health and Welfare, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library no later than
18	thirty days prior to the convening of the 2024 Regular Session.
19	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
20	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)]

HCR 92 Engrossed

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Hughes

Requests the La. Dept. of Health to study the feasibility of funding gene therapy for all sickle cell treatment via Medicaid.