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 |
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| 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 |
| 7 | February 1, 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 |

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| 1 | WHEREAS, the vast majority of Louisiana's rural communities are medically under- |
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| 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 | continue the Health Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force. |
| 10 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership and duties of the task force shall |
| 11 | continue as provided in House Concurrent Resolution No. 44 of the 2022 Regular Session |
| 12 | of the Legislature of Louisiana. |
| 13 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall continue to be a |
| 14 | subcommittee of the Statewide Health Equity Consortium within the Louisiana Department |
| 15 | of Health. |
| 16 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Statewide Health Equity Consortium shall |
| 17 | reconvene the meeting of the task force no later than August 15, 2023. |
| 18 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members shall be given reasonable notice |
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| 19 | of the meetings of the Health Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force. |
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 2 president of the board of directors and the director of clinical practice, health policy, and 3 advocacy of the Louisiana State Nurses Association, the executive director of the Louisiana 4 State Board of Nursing, the executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Medical 5 Examiners, the dean of the Southern University School of Nursing, the president of the board 6 of directors of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners, the chief executive officer 7 of the Louisiana State Medical Society, the chief operating officer of the Rural Hospital 8 Coalition, Inc., the president of the Louisiana Hospital Association, the executive director 9 of the Louisiana Rural Health Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Primary 10 Care Association, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the president of the 11 board of directors of the Louisiana Managed Medicaid Association, the state director of 12 AARP Louisiana, the president of the board of directors of the Louisiana Academy of 13 Family Physicians, the president of the Louisiana Council of Administrators in Nursing 14 Education, the president of the Black Nurses Association of Acadiana, and the president of 15 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 Engrossed 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 Feb. 1, 2024.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Health and Welfare</u> to the <u>original</u> bill:

- 1. Make technical changes.
- 2. Change the due date for the report of the task force <u>from</u> March 1, 2024 to Feb. 1, 2024.
- 3. Make changes to continue the Health Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force created in the 2022 R.S. pursuant to HCR 44.