

1 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has established a multistate job board to connect
2 employers with doctors working in rural areas; and

3 WHEREAS, the implementation of such programs has not made significant changes
4 to the high number of physician vacancies and poor referral rates; and

5 WHEREAS, Louisiana does not have a reliable method of determining the location
6 and specialty of licensed physicians currently practicing in this state; and

7 WHEREAS, Louisiana is working to develop and expand programs aimed at
8 encouraging physicians to participate in Louisiana residency training programs and to
9 continue to reside and provide medical care in this state; and

10 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the state to gather and analyze information
11 and data in order to be more successful and strategic in physician recruitment and retention;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, it is necessary to ensure the retention of specialists in this state so
14 residents of the state do not have to travel outside of the state for specialty medical
15 treatment.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
17 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to continue the task force to conduct
18 research and make recommendations to address the current and future needs of this state to
19 maintain the necessary number and specialty type of physicians to provide health care for
20 our citizens.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall continue to do all of the
22 following:

23 (1) Study all aspects of the supply and demand for physicians in Louisiana, including
24 but not limited to the availability and reliability of data associated with the following
25 variables:

26 (a) Demographic and geographic aspects of the current Louisiana physician
27 workforce.

28 (b) Number and specialty types of physicians currently practicing in Louisiana,
29 including geographic distribution.

1 (c) Capacity for and number of residents and specialty types of residents training in
2 Louisiana, including geographic distribution.

3 (d) Capacity for and number of medical students currently in Louisiana.

4 (e) Number and specialty type of physicians needed to address the health and welfare
5 of the Louisiana population, based on population demographics, Medicaid and commercial
6 health insurance claims analysis, and other sources of information.

7 (2) Review best practices from other states in determining physician supply and
8 demand.

9 (3) Make any other additional recommendations.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may continue to do all of the
11 following:

12 (1) Request the assistance of any state agency or any state official in acquiring
13 information or cooperation necessary to fulfilling its duties.

14 (2) Engage subject matter experts and contract with third parties.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following groups, organizations, and
16 agencies shall each appoint a member to the task force who shall serve at the pleasure of the
17 appointing group, organization, or agency:

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

19 (2) A representative from the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.

20 (3) A representative from the Louisiana State Medical Society.

21 (4) A representative from the Louisiana Hospital Association.

22 (5) A representative from the Louisiana Board of Regents.

23 (6) A representative from the Louisiana Association of Health Plans.

24 (7) A representative from the Louisiana Rural Hospital Association.

25 (8) A representative from the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.

26 (9) The chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New
27 Orleans or his designee.

28 (10) The chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center
29 Shreveport or his designee.

30 (11) The president of Tulane University or his designee.

1 (12) The president of the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine or his
2 designee.

3 (13) A representative from the University of Queensland-Ochsner Clinical School.

4 (14) A representative from the Xavier University of Louisiana.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members shall continue to serve without
6 compensation and additional members may be added to the task force at any time upon a
7 majority vote of its members.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall
9 continue to provide staff to support the task force required by this Resolution.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall continue its adoption of the
11 rules of procedure and shall elect its own chairperson, who shall organize the task force and
12 its work and meetings, which shall be made available electronically.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before February 1, 2025, the task force
14 established by this Resolution shall submit to the House Committee on Health and Welfare,
15 Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research
16 Library a written report of its findings and recommendations.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
18 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the executive director of the Louisiana
19 State Board of Medical Examiners, the president of the Louisiana State Medical Society, the
20 president of the Louisiana Hospital Association, the chair of the Louisiana Board of Regents,
21 the president of the Louisiana Association of Health Plans, the president of the Louisiana
22 Rural Hospital Association, the president of the Louisiana Association of Business and
23 Industry, the chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New
24 Orleans, the chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Shreveport,
25 the president of Tulane University, the president of the Edward Via College of Osteopathic
26 Medicine, the dean of the University of Queensland-Ochsner Clinical School, and the
27 president of Xavier University of Louisiana.

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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2024 Regular Session

Echols

Requests the La. Dept. of Health to continue the task force to study, identify, and make recommendations to address the shortage of specialist physicians in this state.

Requests the task force to submit its findings in the form of a written report on or before Feb. 1, 2025.