

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY REPRESENTATIVE BACALA

INSURANCE/GROUP-STATE: Authorizes and directs the state Office of Group Benefits to study and report to legislature regarding savings available from requiring eligible participants to enroll in Medicare and options for plan provisions that could return some of those savings to those participants

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To authorize and direct the state's Office of Group Benefits to study and report to the House
3 Committees on Retirement and Appropriations and the Senate Committees on
4 Retirement and Finance the total amount of savings the state could realize if eligible
5 plan participants were required to enroll in Medicare and include in the report
6 options for plan provisions and rate reductions that could pass some of those savings
7 back to such participants.

8 WHEREAS, Medicare, a national health insurance program, is provided by the
9 United States government to qualifying citizens, including those age sixty-five and older;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, most Louisiana state employees hired after April 1, 1986, are mandatory
12 participants in this federally-subsidized insurance program; and

13 WHEREAS, current state employees have a portion of their income deducted from
14 each paycheck to cover not only their federally-subsidized health insurance later in life but
15 also their state-sponsored insurance coverage, meaning that, in general, state retirees have
16 paid over the course of their career for two health insurance plans but may only ever utilize
17 one of them; and

18 WHEREAS, Louisiana's state-sponsored health insurance plans are a self-insured
19 program that currently serves as the primary payor on claims for participants, including

1 Medicare-eligible employees and retirees who have not elected to utilize their federal
2 insurance coverage; and

3 WHEREAS, the legislature finds it would be beneficial to the state fisc and to
4 Medicare-eligible Office of Group Benefits participants to identify and capitalize upon
5 opportunities to improve health insurance benefits for such participants while simultaneously
6 creating opportunities for state savings; and

7 WHEREAS, one such opportunity may be requiring qualifying participants in Office
8 of Group Benefits plans to enroll in Medicare, thereby shifting risk to the federal insurance
9 plan and making our state-sponsored insurance plans the secondary payor on claims for these
10 participants; and

11 WHEREAS, other such opportunities should be investigated to save the state money
12 while maintaining the same or better insurance coverage for these participants; and

13 WHEREAS, options for routing some of the resulting savings to those participants
14 should also be investigated, including the possibility of lowering premiums for such
15 participants.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
17 authorize and direct the state's Office of Group Benefits to study and report to the House
18 Committees on Retirement and Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Retirement
19 and Finance no later than December 1, 2025, the total amount of savings the state could
20 realize if eligible plan participants were required to enroll in Medicare and to include in the
21 report options for plan provisions and rate reductions that could pass some of those savings
22 back to such participants.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Heath
24 Williams, CEO of the state's Office of Group Benefits.

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 7 Original

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Bacala

Authorizes and directs the state's Office of Group Benefits to study and report to the House Committees on Retirement and Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Retirement and Finance no later than Dec. 1, 2025, the total amount of savings the state could realize

if eligible plan participants were required to enroll in Medicare and to include in the report options for plan provisions and rate reductions that could pass some of those savings back to such participants