

1 measure of patient health and that good nutrition and good patient health can keep people
2 healthy and out of institutionalized health care facilities, thus reducing healthcare costs; and

3 WHEREAS, inadequate or unbalanced nutrition, known as malnutrition, is not
4 routinely viewed as a medical concern in this nation, and that malnutrition is particularly
5 prevalent in vulnerable populations, such as older adults, hospitalized patients, or minority
6 populations that statistically shoulder the highest incidences of the most severe chronic
7 illnesses such as diabetes, kidney disease, and cardiovascular disease; and

8 WHEREAS, illness, injury, and malnutrition can result in the loss of lean body mass,
9 leading to complications that impact good patient health outcomes, including recovery from
10 surgery, illness, or disease; the elderly lose lean body mass more quickly and to a greater
11 extent than younger adults and weight assessment (body weight and body mass index) can
12 overlook accurate indicators of lean body mass; and

13 WHEREAS, the American Nursing Association defines therapeutic nutrition as the
14 administration of food and fluids to support the metabolic processes of a patient who is
15 malnourished or at high risk of becoming malnourished; and

16 WHEREAS, access to therapeutic nutrition is critical in restoring lean body mass
17 such that it resolves malnutrition challenges and, in turn, improves clinical outcomes,
18 reduces health care costs, and can keep people and our communities healthy; and

19 WHEREAS, despite the recognized link between good nutrition and good health,
20 nutritional screening and therapeutic nutrition treatment have not been incorporated as
21 routine medical treatments across the spectrum of health care.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana urges and
23 requests that the Department of Health and Hospitals examine the benefits of routine
24 nutritional screening and therapeutic nutrition treatment for those who are malnourished or
25 at risk for malnutrition, as well as examine the benefits of nutrition screening and therapeutic
26 nutrition treatment as part of the standard for evidenced-based hospital care.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana supports an
28 increased emphasis on nutrition through the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, as
29 well as for Medicare beneficiaries, to improve their disease management and health
30 outcomes.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana is encouraged that
2 preventive and wellness services, such as counseling for obesity and chronic disease
3 management, are part of the Essential Health Benefits package included in the Patient
4 Protection and Affordable Care Act.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the
6 president of the United States, the vice president of the United States, the secretary of the
7 United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to each
8 member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress, and to the secretary of
9 the Department of Health and Hospitals.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

DIGEST

Broome

SCR No. 41

Urges DHH to examine the benefits of routine nutritional screening and therapeutic nutrition treatment for those who are malnourished or at risk for malnutrition, as well as examine the benefits of nutrition screening and therapeutic nutrition treatment as part of the standard for evidenced-based hospital care.

Supports an increased emphasis on nutrition through the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, as well as for Medicare beneficiaries, to improve their disease management and health outcomes.

Expresses encouragement that preventive and wellness services, such as counseling for obesity and chronic disease management, are part of the Essential Health Benefits package included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.