

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 218

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

HEALTH/DHH: Urges and requests DHH to study the feasibility and impact of requiring Medicaid providers to offer hepatitis C and HIV testing

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study the feasibility and
3 impact of requiring Medicaid providers to offer hepatitis C testing to individuals
4 born between 1945 and 1965 and HIV testing to all individuals in accordance with
5 the Centers for Disease Control's most recent HIV testing guidelines and to report
6 its findings to the House Committee on Health and Welfare.

7 WHEREAS, hepatitis C disease is a disease of the liver caused by the hepatitis C virus; and
8 WHEREAS, hepatitis C virus infection is the most common chronic bloodborne
9 infection in the United States and Louisiana; and

10 WHEREAS, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control and
11 Prevention (CDC), it is estimated that eighty thousand residents of Louisiana are infected
12 with the hepatitis C virus; and

13 WHEREAS, an estimated five hundred people are infected with hepatitis C each year
14 in Louisiana and one hundred twenty Louisiana residents are expected to die each year from
15 hepatitis C; and

16 WHEREAS, many individuals can live with hepatitis C for decades without feeling
17 sick, and therefore are not diagnosed and not reported; and

18 WHEREAS, the highest rates for both males and females are seen in the forty-five
19 to fifty-four year old age group; and

1 WHEREAS, individuals born during the period 1945 to 1965 are five times more
2 likely than other adults to be infected with hepatitis C and seventy-five percent of adults with
3 hepatitis C were born in these years; and

4 WHEREAS, individuals infected with hepatitis C who are unaware that they are
5 infected are unlikely to take precautions to prevent the spread or exacerbation of their
6 infection; and

7 WHEREAS, early diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C can help prevent liver
8 damage, cirrhosis, and liver cancer; and

9 WHEREAS, the CDC has determined that one-time hepatitis C testing of everyone
10 born during the period 1945 to 1965 will prevent more than one hundred twenty thousand
11 deaths in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, more than one million people are living with HIV in the United States,
13 but one in five does not know they are infected; and

14 WHEREAS, a total of eighteen thousand three hundred eight persons are living with
15 HIV/AIDS in Louisiana; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2011, one thousand two hundred eighty-two individuals were newly
17 diagnosed with HIV infection in Louisiana, a thirteen and one-half percent increase from the
18 number of new diagnoses in 2010; and

19 WHEREAS, the cumulative number of deaths among persons diagnosed with
20 HIV/AIDS, reported to the Department of Health and Hospitals, office of public health,
21 through December 31, 2010, is twelve thousand seven hundred fifty-five; and

22 WHEREAS, the 2011 CDC HIV Surveillance Report first provided a national
23 comparison of estimated HIV case rates by state and Louisiana ranked third in the nation for
24 estimated HIV case rates and eleventh in the estimated number of HIV cases; and

25 WHEREAS, early diagnosis allows an individual with HIV to receive treatment and
26 care early enough to delay the onset of AIDS and also gives the state an opportunity to
27 provide outreach and education to help those with HIV better understand how to prevent
28 spreading the virus to others; and

29 WHEREAS, infectious diseases such as hepatitis C and HIV may be easily prevented
30 from spreading through timely testing and education; and

1 WHEREAS, increased access to hepatitis C and HIV testing and possible early
2 diagnosis would be beneficial to the health and welfare of the citizens of Louisiana.

3 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
4 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and
5 Hospitals to study the feasibility and impact of requiring Medicaid providers to offer
6 hepatitis C testing to individuals born between 1945 and 1965 and HIV testing to all
7 individuals in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control's most recent HIV testing
8 guidelines.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall provide the findings of this
10 study in the form of a written report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare prior
11 to the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
13 secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

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)]

Barrow

HR No. 218

Urges and requests the Dept. of Health and Hospitals to study the feasibility and impact of requiring Medicaid providers to offer hepatitis C and HIV and to report its findings to the House Committee on Health and Welfare prior to the 2014 R.S.