

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY SENATOR HEITMEIER

HEALTH/HOSPITALS DEPT. Directs the Department of Health and Hospitals to create a working group to develop strategies to decrease primary care utilization in emergency rooms in hospitals across Louisiana.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To direct the Department of Health and Hospitals to create a working group to develop
3 strategies to decrease primary care utilization in emergency rooms in hospitals across
4 Louisiana.

5 WHEREAS, it is a significant financial cost to provide primary care services within
6 a hospital emergency room; and

7 WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2013 the Louisiana Medicaid program spent
8 approximately one hundred seventy-six million dollars on hospital payments for emergency
9 room visits; and

10 WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Hospitals has projected approximately
11 seventy-three million dollars of the approximately one hundred seventy-six million dollars
12 being spent on non-emergent care; and

13 WHEREAS, it should be a fundamental policy goal of this state to develop strategies
14 to decrease primary care utilization in emergency rooms in hospitals across Louisiana.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
16 does hereby direct the Department of Health and Hospitals to create a working group to
17 develop strategies to decrease primary care utilization in emergency rooms in hospitals
18 across Louisiana.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group study and develop strategies
2 to decrease primary care utilization in emergency rooms in hospitals in Louisiana.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall make recommendations
4 and submit a report of their work to the legislature.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall be staffed by the
6 Department of Health and Hospitals.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be comprised of the
8 following members:

9 (1) The secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals or his designee.

10 (2) The executive director of the Louisiana Association of Health Plans or his
11 designee.

12 (3) The executive director of the Louisiana Hospital Association or his designee.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the working group shall serve
14 without compensation except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be
15 individually entitled as members of their organizations.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Department of Health and
17 Hospitals or his designee shall serve as the chairperson of the working group.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairperson of the working group shall call
19 the first meeting of the working group no later than September 1, 2014.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the total membership of the
21 working group shall constitute a quorum of the working group, and any official action by the
22 working group shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and
23 voting.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group may conduct such meetings
25 at such times as it deems necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and
26 effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this
27 Resolution.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall make a report of its
29 work and shall submit the report to the legislature no later than sixty days prior to the
30 convening of the 2015 Regular Session.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the authority of the working group shall
2 terminate on March 1, 2015.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
4 secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, the executive director of the Louisiana
5 Association of Health Plans, and the executive director of the Louisiana Hospital
6 Association.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Christopher D. Adams.

DIGEST

Heitmeier

SR No. 29

Directs the Department of Health and Hospitals to create a working group to develop strategies to decrease primary care utilization in emergency rooms in hospitals across Louisiana.