

1 access a physician quickly through electronic means but could not also access a provider in
2 person at the same time; and

3 WHEREAS, the term "telehealth" encompasses telemedicine as well as other health
4 services which can be provided remotely through communication technologies; and

5 WHEREAS, common examples of telehealth services in practice include primary
6 care, medical specialty consultations, behavioral health services, and home monitoring of
7 chronic disease; and

8 WHEREAS, telehealth services could potentially address a great unmet need for
9 health care by persons who have limited access to both traditional health care settings and
10 to telemedicine as currently defined in Louisiana law; and

11 WHEREAS, if our state is to achieve much needed improvement in health outcomes,
12 a prudent and responsible policy for doing so would be to balance patient safety and access
13 to care through expanding access by Louisianians to telehealth services.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15 create the Task Force on Telehealth Access.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of thirteen
17 members as follows:

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

19 (2) The executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners or his
20 designee.

21 (3) A representative of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at
22 New Orleans.

23 (4) A representative of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at
24 Shreveport.

25 (5) A representative of the Tulane University School of Medicine.

26 (6) A representative of the Louisiana State Medical Society.

27 (7) A representative of the Louisiana Primary Care Association.

28 (8) A representative of the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum.

29 (9) A representative of the HomeCare Association of Louisiana.

30 (10) A representative of the Louisiana Hospital Association.

1 (11) A representative of the Louisiana Association of Health Plans.

2 (12) A representative of the Louisiana Cable and Telecommunications Association.

3 (13) A representative of the TexLa Telehealth Resource Center.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall convene on or before
5 September 1, 2014.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the functions of the task force shall include all
7 of the following:

8 (1) Serve as an advisory body to the legislature and the Department of Health and
9 Hospitals on policies and practices that expand access to telehealth services in a manner that
10 ensures quality of care and patient safety.

11 (2) Serve as a coordinating forum on telehealth-related matters between and among
12 state agencies, local government, and other nongovernmental groups.

13 (3) On a regular basis, research and review state regulations, guidelines, policies,
14 and procedures that pertain in any way to telehealth and make policy recommendations to
15 the governor, the legislature, and the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before January 1, 2015, and semiannually
17 thereafter, the task force shall prepare and submit to the governor and the legislature a report
18 on the status of telehealth access in Louisiana.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on September 1,
20 2018.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
22 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)]

Simon

HCR No. 88

Creates the Task Force on Telehealth Access as an advisory body to the legislature and DHH on policies and practices that expand access to telehealth services.