

(KEYWORD, SUMMARY, AND DIGEST as amended by Senate committee amendments)

**HEALTH SERVICES. Creates the Task Force on Telehealth Access**

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DIGEST

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.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill.

1. Increased number of members representing DHH from one to two and stipulated that at least one member be an employee in the bureau of primary care and rural health.
2. Added members representing the following groups to the task force in the number of one member per group:
  - (a) The Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners.
  - (b) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections.
  - (c) Ochsner Health System.
  - (d) Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center.
  - (e) The Louisiana Rural Hospital Coalition, Inc.
  - (f) The Louisiana Ambulance Alliance.
  - (g) The Louisiana Nursing Home Association.
3. Among the enumerated functions of the task force, added a requirement that the task force study technical aspects of delivery systems utilized in telehealth, and develop basic standards based upon such study to recommend to the governor, the legislature, and the secretary of DHH concerning modalities and features of telehealth delivery systems.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

1. Added the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists as a task force member organization.
2. Specified that the secretary of DHH shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure that the initial convening of the task force occurs.
3. Added directive for the task force providing that it shall select a chairman from among its members.
4. Added provision stipulating that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled by their respective employer organizations.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the reengrossed bill

1. Added a representative of the Louisiana Psychiatric Medical Association and the executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing or his designee as task force members.
2. Provides for the task force to serve as an advisory board to DHH on policies that expand access to and coverage for telehealth services in a manner that ensures quality of care and patient safety.
3. Made a technical correction.