

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 131

BY REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: Urges and requests the Louisiana Workforce Commission to study and make recommendations concerning the payment model for vocational rehabilitation services

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Workforce Commission to study and make
3 recommendations about updating the current fee structure and reimbursement
4 methodology for the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services' Vocational Rehabilitation
5 Program and submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the
6 Legislature of Louisiana not later than thirty days prior to the convening of the 2023
7 Regular Session.

8 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) assists people with
9 disabilities in their desire to obtain, maintain, or advance in employment opportunities and
10 achieve independence in their communities by providing vocational rehabilitation services
11 through partnerships with vendors with employer services and other community resources;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the LRS's Vocational Rehabilitation Program works with vendors in
14 order to place and retain people with disabilities in the workforce; and

15 WHEREAS, vendors continue to provide vocational rehabilitation services to people
16 with disabilities across the state, often at the expense of the vendor since the LRS is not
17 always able to cover one hundred percent of the services' costs; and

18 WHEREAS, vendors routinely supplement LRS fees with alternative revenue
19 streams as a result of an outdated fee structure that utilizes an inadequate reimbursement

1 methodology that has not kept pace with inflationary factors, rising staff costs, and direct
2 services costs; and

3 WHEREAS, the current fee structure places an extraordinary financial burden on
4 vendors, which can no longer be sustained, resulting in the potential to cease service
5 provision to people with disabilities, which places undue risks on the statewide vocational
6 rehabilitation system and adversely impacts training, support, and employment opportunities
7 for people with disabilities; and

8 WHEREAS, equitable reimbursement to vendors for the services they provide is
9 necessary to ensure adequate employment support for people with disabilities to enhance
10 financial and personal independence, ensure quality of services, and strengthen the
11 vocational rehabilitation system statewide; and

12 WHEREAS, vendors of services for people with disabilities are essential components
13 of the state vocational rehabilitation system, and the services they deliver are vital to
14 employment success.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
16 urge and request the Louisiana Workforce Commission to study and make recommendations
17 about updating the current fee structure and reimbursement methodology for the Louisiana
18 Rehabilitation Services' Vocational Rehabilitation Program and submit a written report of
19 its findings and recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana not later than thirty days
20 prior to the convening of the 2023 Regular Session.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the written report shall include but not be limited
22 to the following:

23 (1) The current fee structure and reimbursement methodology of this state.

24 (2) A list of vendors with employer services that have partnered with the Louisiana
25 Rehabilitation Services and the fees these vendors pay for services and costs incurred to
26 train, support, and secure employment.

27 (3) A comparison analysis of other state's payment models.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
29 secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

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)]

HCR 131 Original

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Phelps

Requests the La. Workforce Commission to study and make recommendations about updating the current fee structure and reimbursement methodology for the La. Rehabilitation Services' Vocational Rehabilitation program and submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature of La. not later than 30 days prior to the convening of the 2023 R.S.