

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

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

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

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

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

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of twenty-one
15 members as follows:

16 (1) Two members appointed by the secretary of the Department of Health and
17 Hospitals, at least one of whom shall be an employee in the bureau of primary care and rural
18 health.

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 (14) A representative of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners.
- 5 (15) The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections or his
6 designee.
- 7 (16) A representative of Ochsner Health System.
- 8 (17) A representative of Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center.
- 9 (18) A representative of the Louisiana Rural Hospital Coalition, Inc.
- 10 (19) A representative of the Louisiana Ambulance Alliance.
- 11 (20) A representative of the Louisiana Nursing Home Association.

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

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the functions of the task force shall include all
15 of the following:

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

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

21 (3) Study technical aspects of delivery systems utilized in telehealth, and develop
22 basic standards based upon such study to recommend to the governor, the legislature, and
23 the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals concerning modalities and features
24 of telehealth delivery systems.

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

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

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on September 1,
2 2018.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
4 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.

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.