

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 252

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHAD BROWN

A RESOLUTION

To authorize and request the Department of Insurance to study and report on the status of health insurance coverage for acupuncture services in Louisiana and other states and to submit a written report of its findings to the House Committee on Insurance and the Senate Committee on Insurance no later than February 1, 2020.

WHEREAS, R.S. 37:1356 defines the practice of acupuncture as the treatment by means of mechanical, thermal, or electrical stimulation effected by the insertion of needles at a point or combination of points on the surface of the body predetermined on the basis of the theory of the physiological interrelationship of body organs with an associated point or combination of points, or the application of heat or electrical stimulation to such point or points, for the purpose of inducing anesthesia, relieving pain, or healing diseases, disorders and dysfunctions of the body, or achieving a therapeutic or prophylactic effect; and

WHEREAS, the practice of acupuncture provides important health benefits to the residents of this state; and

WHEREAS, the practice of acupuncture has become a well-established, widely used, viable modality across the United States; and

WHEREAS, acupuncture has been shown to have a relevant effect on chronic pain which persists over time that cannot be solely explained by placebo effects according to research by the Acupuncture Trialists' Collaboration, published in the May 2018 edition of *The Journal of Pain*, the official journal of the American Pain Society; and

WHEREAS, acupuncture is a nonaddictive alternative to opioids for pain management; and

WHEREAS, the individuals providing acupuncture services are licensed and the practice of acupuncture is regulated by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners pursuant to R.S. 37:1356 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Insurance works diligently to balance the needs of insurance consumers with the insurance industry's need to run a competitive business; and

WHEREAS, as a regulator, the department enforces the Louisiana Insurance Code, thereby creating an environment conducive to a competitive marketplace for the sale of insurance products and services while providing Louisiana residents with the maximum amount of consumer protection.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Insurance to study and report on the status of health insurance coverage for acupuncture services in Louisiana and other states.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Insurance, in conducting the study, shall do all of the following:

(1) Survey the availability and extent of health insurance coverage for acupuncture services in Louisiana.

(2) Review the laws and best practices in other states relative to health insurance benefits for acupuncture services.

(3) Survey the availability and extent of health insurance coverage for acupuncture services in other states.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in carrying out the purposes of this Resolution, the Department of Insurance shall engage and solicit input, recommendations, and advice from all interested parties and stakeholders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Insurance shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Insurance and Senate Committee on Insurance no later than February 1, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of insurance.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES