

Regular Session, 2010

SENATE BILL NO. 253

BY SENATOR DORSEY

HEALTH CARE. Requires the Department of Health and Hospitals to disseminate information related to the provision of health care services. (8/15/10)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 40:2021, relative to health care information; to provide for the dissemination  
3 of health care information by the Department of Health and Hospitals; and to provide  
4 for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 40:2021 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 **§2021. Health care information**

8 **A. The legislature hereby finds that the non-emergent utilization rate of**  
9 **emergency departments in the state of Louisiana is at an all-time high. The**  
10 **legislature further finds that one of the causes for such a high utilization rate is**  
11 **the lack of information by the citizens of this state about alternative facilities to**  
12 **receive health care that are available in their communities such as out patient**  
13 **clinics and after-hours programs.**

14 **B. The secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals shall**  
15 **distribute and make available information that will provide citizens of this**  
16 **state with information concerning the various health care facilities and**  
17 **providers available to provide non-emergent care. Such information shall be**

- 1            **community- specific and distributed in each community in such a manner that**  
2            **the information will be available to the largest number of citizens.**
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The original instrument was prepared by Greg Waddell. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Michelle Broussard-Johnson.

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#### DIGEST

Dorsey (SB 253)

Proposed law provides that the legislature finds that the non-emergent utilization rate of emergency departments in the state of Louisiana is at an all-time high. The legislature further finds that one of the causes for such a high utilization rate is the lack of information by the citizens of this state about alternative facilities to receive health care that are available in their communities such as outpatient clinics and after-hours programs.

Proposed law provides that the secretary of DHH shall distribute and make available information which will provide citizens of this state with information concerning the various health care facilities and providers available to provide non-emergent care.

Proposed law provides that the information shall be community-specific and distributed in each community in such a manner that the information will be available to the largest number of citizens.

Effective August 15, 2010.

(Adds R.S. 40:2021)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Changes the requirement that DHH promulgate and distribute information to distribute and make available information.

##### Senate Floor Amendments to reengrossed bill.

1. Technical amendments made with clarifying language.