

SENATE BILL NO. 253

BY SENATOR DORSEY

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 nonemergent 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 available to the citizens of this state about alternative**  
12 **facilities to receive health care that are available in their communities such as**  
13 **outpatient 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 nonemergent care. Such information shall be**  
18 **community- specific and distributed in each community in such a manner that**  
19 **the information will be available to the largest number of citizens.**

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_