

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 166

BY SENATOR JOHNS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to facilitate the processing and payment of Medicaid claims.

WHEREAS, in 2012, the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) implemented the Bayou Health program and the Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership program, transferring the responsibility for managing the Medicaid population and processing claims and reimbursing providers for covered services to those entities entering into contracts under these programs; and

WHEREAS, the Bayou Health plans are responsible for managing medical care and the Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership is responsible for managing behavioral health care, including payments to hospitals and physicians relative to behavioral health issues; and

WHEREAS, the Bayou Health plans and the Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership are paid on a monthly basis for the services they provide to the citizens of the state; and

WHEREAS, healthcare providers have experienced a multitude of issues with claims and payment denial from both the Bayou Health plans and the Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership, regarding the payments to hospitals and physicians, under the assertion that the responsibility falls within the scope of another contractor; and

WHEREAS, healthcare providers have rendered services and expended resources in providing care, and lack of payment of these covered services negatively impacts these providers and their ability to provide future care to all patients; and

WHEREAS, continuing delays only serve to exacerbate the negative financial impacts to healthcare providers and access to care for all residents of the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to facilitate the processing and payment of Medicaid claims.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DHH develop, implement, and publish a plan to rectify the issues that exist with processing and payment of all affected claims in an expeditious and expedient manner by no later than August 1, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of DHH shall develop, implement, and publish a plan to clarify the future payment process of claims billed to the Bayou Health program or to the Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership, with regard to payments made to hospitals and physicians relative to behavioral health issues, addressing issues that have been identified to date with the processing and payment of claims, no later than August 1, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES