

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 174

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study and make a recommendation for a freestanding emergency department pilot program in North Baton Rouge.

WHEREAS, in recent years the residents of North Baton Rouge have experienced a significant reduction in emergency care access with the closure of Earl K. Long Hospital in 2013 and the closure of the emergency department of Baton Rouge General - Mid City in 2015; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to restore emergency care access in North Baton Rouge, one option that should be considered is the operation of a freestanding emergency department; and

WHEREAS, freestanding emergency departments have been in existence since the 1970s and there are currently more than four hundred freestanding emergency departments in forty-five states operating under several different allowable models; and

WHEREAS, some states provide for licensure, some require certificate of need, some require hospital ownership or affiliation, and some mandate certain hours of operation; and

WHEREAS, with such great flexibility afforded the states in operating and regulating freestanding emergency departments, it is imperative that the Department of Health and Hospitals study and make a recommendation to the legislature on a pilot program to increase patient access to emergency care in North Baton Rouge.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study and make a recommendation for a freestanding emergency department pilot program in North Baton Rouge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in making its recommendation, the department shall consider all models available and currently being used in other states and shall also consider such factors unique to North Baton Rouge such as distance to emergency care access, transportation routes, allowable payor sources, and any other factor that would be required for successful implementation and shall submit such recommendation to the legislature no later than February 1, 2017.

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