

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 97

BY SENATOR JACKSON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Insurance to form a task force to study, jointly with the Louisiana Department of Health, the causes of infertility in women and the desirability and feasibility of mandating insurance coverage for fertility treatments for women.

WHEREAS, infertility affects people in a wide variety of ways and can have significant detrimental effects on an individual's quality of life; and

WHEREAS, depending on the underlying cause, infertility can be treated by different health care providers using a range of medical options; and

WHEREAS, cost prohibitive infertility treatments, coupled with the lack of universal insurance coverage mandates, may contribute to health care inequity, particularly along racial and socioeconomic lines; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana law currently prohibits a health insurance plan from excluding coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of a correctable medical condition otherwise covered under the plan solely because the condition results in infertility, but does not require coverage for infertility treatments.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Insurance to form a task force to study, jointly with the Louisiana Department of Health, the causes of infertility in women and the desirability and feasibility of mandating insurance coverage for fertility treatments for women.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be comprised of representatives from any relevant and interested parties including but not limited to the following members:

- (1) The commissioner of insurance or his designee.

(2) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.

(3) Representatives from the health insurance industry, appointed by the commissioner of insurance.

(4) Two physicians specializing in infertility, appointed by the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

(5) Two physicians specializing in obstetrics and gynecology, appointed by the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall specifically consider hypothyroidism as it relates to infertility in women and insurance coverage for conditions related to hypothyroidism.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall survey laws in other states relative to the coverage of fertility treatments for women in order to identify best practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may engage and solicit input, recommendations, and advice from all interested parties and stakeholders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all departments, boards, agencies, officers, and institutions of the state shall cooperate with the task force in providing information to assist the task force in carrying out its mission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is assigned to the Louisiana Department of Insurance, with staff support to be provided from existing personnel within the department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commissioner of insurance shall issue the first invitation for the initial meeting of the task force no later than September 1, 2021, and at the first meeting the task force shall select a chairperson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the membership of the task force constitutes a quorum and that if all task force members have not been appointed by September 1, 2021, a majority of the appointed membership shall constitute a quorum until additional appointments are made.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than February 1, 2022, the task force shall prepare and submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Insurance and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on February 1, 2022.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE