SLS 24RS-592 ORIGINAL

2024 Regular Session

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

BY SENATOR BARROW

HEALTH DEPARTMENT. To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study behavioral health demand and access.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to perform a comprehensive study on access to behavioral health services across the state. 3 4 WHEREAS, Louisiana is experiencing a mental health crisis, with over three million 5 people in the state of Louisiana living in communities that lack a sufficient number of mental 6 and behavioral health providers; and 7 WHEREAS, the opioid epidemic and the mental health crisis have contributed to an 8 increase in overdoses, suicides, and depression in the past two decades; and 9 WHEREAS, although behavioral health needs have increased, the number of 10 individuals receiving behavioral health services has not; and 11 WHEREAS, a 2023 report issued by the National Center for Health Workforce Analysis, projects the shortage of addiction counselors, marriage and family therapists, 12 13 mental health counselors, psychologists, and psychiatrists will continue to intensify for the foreseeable future; and 14 WHEREAS, cost to patients, low reimbursement rates and administrative burdens 15 16 for behavioral health providers participating in insurance plans, and lack of coverage for certain behavioral health provider types all contribute to the behavioral health workforce 17 18 shortage; and

1	WHEREAS, Louisiana needs to identify ways to increase its behavioral health
2	workforce and address provider and patient-level barriers.
3	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
4	urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to perform a comprehensive study on
5	access to behavioral health services across the state and to report the findings and
6	recommendations from the study to the legislature no later than February 1, 2025.
7	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall work in conjunction with
8	the Board of Regents, Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, Louisiana State Board
9	of Examiners of Psychologists, Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors Board of
10	Examiners, and Addictive Disorders Regulatory Authority Board to complete the study.
11	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall provide information and
12	recommendations on the following:
13	(1) Current behavioral health services covered by the Medicaid managed care
14	organizations and private insurance companies.
15	(2) The status of education programs for future behavioral health providers currently
16	offered in Louisiana.
17	(3) The capacity for higher education institutions to increase educational
18	opportunities for providers.
19	(4) Strategies for increasing access to behavioral health services in rural areas of the
20	state.
21	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall submit
22	a written report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than February
23	1, 2025.
24	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
25	secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the commissioner of higher education, the
26	executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, the executive director
27	of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, the executive director of the
28	Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners, and the executive director
29	of the Addictive Disorders Regulatory Authority Board.

SLS 24RS-592 ORIGINAL SCR NO. 23

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Amanda Trapp.

DIGEST 2024 Regular Session

Barrow

SCR 23 Original

Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to perform a comprehensive study on access to behavioral health services across the state.