ENROLLED

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 14

BY REPRESENTATIVES ECHOLS, BAGLEY, AND THOMPSON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to study certain aspects of nonemergency medical transportation provided within the Medicaid managed care program of this state and to report findings from the study to the House Committee on Health and Welfare.

WHEREAS, during the global outbreak of the infectious respiratory disease known as COVID-19 which became a declared public health emergency in Louisiana in March of 2020, many citizens of this state would have benefited from access to nonemergency medical transportation (NEMT) services offering individualized options and opportunities for safe transportation in environments that minimize the risk of exposure to infectious disease; and

WHEREAS, transportation network companies are ideal providers of services that protect and promote public health by facilitating access to primary care, pharmacy services, and other forms of health care that help people maintain and improve their health; and

WHEREAS, primary care is a vital component of every healthcare system and is essential for improving and maintaining the health of any population; and

WHEREAS, helping people to keep appointments with their primary care providers and adhere to medication regimens promotes their health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, allowing transportation network companies to furnish NEMT services to Medicaid enrollees would improve the accessibility of health services for a large portion of Louisiana's population as well as produce substantial cost savings for our state; and

WHEREAS, exploring innovative solutions for reducing Medicaid costs while protecting and promoting the health of Medicaid enrollees is in the best interest of this state; and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid managed care program known as Healthy Louisiana now serves nearly all of the one million, six hundred fifty thousand Medicaid enrollees of this state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to conduct a study of the following aspects of, and relating to, nonemergency medical transportation provided within the Medicaid managed care program:

(1) The frequency of Medicaid enrollees missing appointments for healthcare services, along with the factors that cause this problem and the health effects among this population resulting from missed appointments.

(2) Potential benefits of having new providers, including transportation network companies, in Louisiana's Medicaid nonemergency medical transportation system. In conducting this component of the study, the department shall examine the Medicaid programs of Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Missouri, Tennessee, and Virginia within which transportation network companies currently provide nonemergency medical transportation.

(3) Issues that nonemergency medical transportation providers have experienced in working with the transportation brokers that the Medicaid managed care organizations of this state employ and concerns relating to these brokers, along with actions that the department could take, or has taken, to address these provider concerns. In conducting this component of the study, the department shall develop a recommendation for what the optimal number of such transportation brokers would be for the Healthy Louisiana managed care program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study called for in this Resolution, the Louisiana Department of Health shall actively engage and solicit input from physicians and other licensed health professionals who are enrolled as providers in the Medicaid managed care program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall issue findings from the study called for in this Resolution in the form of a report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare prior to the convening of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES