

Regular Session, 2003

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 130

BY SENATOR SCHEDLER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To establish the Office of Group Benefits Medicare Study Commission.

WHEREAS, until 1986, the state of Louisiana did not require employees to participate in the Medicare health insurance program; and

WHEREAS, approximately 5,659 individuals participate in the Office of Group Health Insurance Program are age sixty-five and older and are not eligible to participate in the Medicare health insurance program; and

WHEREAS, actuarial projections indicate that the future projected cost to provide health insurance for retired state employees is in excess of six billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board has issued a pronouncement as an exposure draft which, if adopted, will require the state to recognize the future cost of retiree health benefits as a liability; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Group Benefits Study Commission, established pursuant to Executive Order No. MJF 02-24, recommended that the state investigate the advisability of purchasing Medicare health insurance coverage for individuals who would qualify for Medicare health benefits upon reaching the age of sixty-five; and

WHEREAS, purchasing Medicare coverage for participants in the office of group benefits health insurance program who are not otherwise eligible would require the state to execute a contract with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services which would obligate the state to appropriate substantial funding for an extended period of time; and

WHEREAS, initial actuarial projections indicate that the projected cost of purchasing Medicare coverage for ineligible office of group benefits plan participants initially would be between thirty-five million and forty million dollars annually.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Office of Group Benefits Medicare Study Commission to assess the advisability of purchasing Medicare coverage for individuals enrolled in the office of group benefits health care program who would not otherwise be eligible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Group Benefits Medicare Study Commission be comprised of the following members:

(1) The governor, or his designee, who shall preside as chairperson of the commission.

(2) The senator appointed by the president of the Senate to the office of Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board.

(3) The chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, or his designee.

(4) The chairman of the Senate Insurance Committee, or his designee.

(5) The chairman of the Senate Retirement Committee, or his designee.

(6) The chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, or his designee.

(7) The chairman of the House Insurance Committee, or his designee.

(8) The representative appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives to the Office of Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board.

(9) The chairman of the House Retirement Committee, or his designee.

(10) The director of the State Civil Service Commission.

(11) The director of the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System.

(12) The director of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

(13) The chairman of the Office of Group Benefits Policy and Planning Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of group benefits shall provide the necessary staff for this commission to be able to conduct the required assessment and make the reports required by this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all departments, commissions, boards, agencies, and offices of the state, and any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate with the commission in implementing the provisions of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall meet at the call of the chairperson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall submit findings and recommendations in a final report to the legislature on or before March 1, 2004.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the authority for the commission shall expire March 1, 2004.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES