

Regular Session, 2005

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 48

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to amend the facility need review bed abeyance policy to provide for the partial abeyance of beds under certain circumstances.

WHEREAS, both the legislative auditor and the governor's task force on long-term care reform have recognized that Louisiana has too many underutilized nursing facility beds; and

WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes that by promoting higher occupancy levels, the state can save money and improve efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Hospitals previously amended the facility need review bed abeyance policy to provide for abeyance of approved nursing home beds when a facility is closed and all of its approved beds are placed in abeyance; and

WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes that it is often necessary to transfer some, but not all, approved beds in order to accommodate all existing patients when a facility is closed; and

WHEREAS, the legislature finds that failure to allow abeyance of a portion of the remaining beds provides a disincentive to consolidation and often results in closure of facilities with low occupancy, particularly in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, the legislature finds that at least two facilities in rural areas have been purchased and closed since the enactment of the bed abeyance policy and are currently seeking to have some or all of the beds not transferred placed in abeyance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to amend the facility need review bed abeyance policy to provide that in the event

a nursing facility is closed and a portion of the beds are transferred to another facility, ninety percent of the remaining beds may be placed in abeyance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana requests the Department of Health and Hospitals to apply the amended facility need review bed abeyance policy retroactively to cover any facility that has closed under such circumstances after January 1, 2003.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES