

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 162

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy to recognize more than one accredited pharmacy technician certification program prior to adopting final rules pursuant to its administrative rulemaking initiative entitled "Regulatory Project 2015-19 - Pharmacy Technicians".

WHEREAS, pharmacists are highly educated healthcare professionals who provide convenient, high-quality healthcare services, including medication management therapy, immunizations, long-acting injectable medications, disease management, point-of-care testing, and patient assessments and screenings to a great number of patients; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana pharmacists work in partnership with other healthcare entities and providers to improve patient outcomes and public health in this state; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to improve patient care, Louisiana pharmacists and pharmacy owners support a practice environment that utilizes and promotes well-qualified pharmacy technicians as essential members of the pharmacy care team; and

WHEREAS, certified pharmacy technicians in Louisiana are paraprofessionals who work exclusively under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist and assist pharmacists in preparing and dispensing prescription medications, administrative duties, and performing pharmacy care services; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy requires a certified pharmacy technician to complete six hundred hours of board-approved training and pass a nationally accredited certification examination; and

WHEREAS, because no single training and certification method meets the needs of all pharmacy technicians or community pharmacies, pharmacists and pharmacy owners support multiple pathways for certified pharmacy technicians so that those technicians may

complete a certification program that is best suited for the work they will perform in their unique practice setting, whether that setting is a hospital, a community-based provider, a long-term care facility, a nuclear pharmacy, or other pharmacy location; and

WHEREAS, the National Commission for Certifying Agencies is a nationally recognized third party agency that accredits certification programs which are able to meet and comply with its standards, and has accredited more than one pharmacy technician certification exam; and

WHEREAS, though the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy has the authority to approve multiple nationally accredited certification programs, the board has chosen to recognize only one such program, resulting in a statewide monopoly for the sole company that administers the only board-approved examination; and

WHEREAS, without competition, monopolistic pricing could cause financial difficulty, obstacles to practice, and undue strain for professionals who provide vital healthcare services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy to expand upon its exclusive agreement with the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board, and to change its definition of "approved certification examination" in order to recognize more than one pharmacy technician certification program accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies prior to adopting final rules pursuant to the administrative rulemaking effort that the board has entitled "Regulatory Project 2015-19 - Pharmacy Technicians".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairperson and the executive director of the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES