

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 39

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy to study and make recommendations relative to pharmacists' testing, screening, and treatment of certain health conditions.

WHEREAS, pharmacists are highly educated health care professionals who provide convenient, high-quality health care 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 health care entities and providers to improve patient outcomes and public health in this state; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana law provides for collaborative drug therapy management, the practice in which a pharmacist voluntarily agrees with a physician to manage the disease-specific drug therapy of one or more patients of the physician, within a predetermined range of medication selected by the physician and set forth in patient-specific written orders; and

WHEREAS, drug therapy management involves monitoring and modifying a disease-specific drug therapy; collecting and reviewing patient history; obtaining and reviewing vital signs; ordering, evaluating, and applying the results of laboratory tests directly related to the disease-specific drug therapy being managed under an order; and providing disease- or condition-specific patient education and counseling; and

WHEREAS, due to poor health outcomes and extensive health professional shortage areas, Louisiana has an especially pronounced statewide need for an expansion of access to health care.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy to study and make recommendations relative to pharmacists' testing, screening, and treatment of certain health conditions, including but not limited to:

(1) An update on the status of the collaborative drug therapy management program in Louisiana.

(2) A determination of the desirability and feasibility of a written statewide protocol for pharmacists to test or screen for and initiate treatment or therapy for qualified health conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation if necessary, to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare no later than March 1, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in complying with this Resolution, the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy may consult with the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE