

1 WHEREAS, nearly seventy-five years ago the world viewed nurses differently than
2 they do today, but sadly, in many cases, nurses are still fighting to have their voices heard
3 in a hospital setting despite being a critical part of the overall patient care team; and

4 WHEREAS, according to the 2022 Nurse Supply Report issued by the Louisiana
5 State Board of Nursing, on December 31, 2022 there were 65,596 registered nurses holding
6 an active license to practice in Louisiana, and of those 32,763, a staggering 60%, were
7 employed by hospitals; and

8 WHEREAS, according to the 2019 United States Bureau of Labor Statistics,
9 registered nurses made up 30% of hospital employment, making it the largest hospital
10 occupation; and

11 WHEREAS, nurses engage with hospital patients and patient family members more
12 on a daily basis than physicians or any other health care professionals, therefore they can
13 provide critical insight into the patient care experience and patient needs from a different
14 perspective than other hospital professionals; and

15 WHEREAS, as a standard operating practice, it is widely accepted that many hospital
16 service district boards have established medical executive committees as their patient care
17 decision-making body; and

18 WHEREAS, a medical executive committee is responsible for making decisions
19 related to medical staff policies and procedures; and

20 WHEREAS, each hospital service district should have a medical executive
21 committee and each medical executive committee could benefit from the diversity and
22 perspective that nurses contribute.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
24 request each hospital service district in Louisiana to include nurse representation on its
25 patient care decision-making body.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than January 1, 2025, each hospital
27 service district shall report to the Louisiana Department of Health on the formal name of its
28 patient care decision making body, specifically whether the body is known as the medical
29 executive committee or some other designation, and shall include in its report the
30 composition of its patient care decision-making body.

