

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 207

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

A RESOLUTION

To direct the Louisiana Department of Health to study and make recommendations on how to reduce the number of licensing boards of health professions.

WHEREAS, an article by the S. J. Harris Law Firm stated that, in the United States, licensing is a state-based system that allows state licensing boards to assist state governments in regulating the licensure process for any profession that requires licensure; and

WHEREAS, the responsibilities of licensing boards include the evaluation of an applicant's education and supervised experience and a determination of an applicant's licensure eligibility; and

WHEREAS, licensing boards are also responsible for ensuring that occupational practices are monitored through efficient systems and programs, which includes assurance that each occupation is following current events and new implementations within the profession; and

WHEREAS, based on recent trends within each profession, licensing boards are also tasked with suggesting regulatory amendments if necessary; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2020 article from the Goldwater Institute, licensing boards have significant influence over the rules that govern their respective licensees, which includes oversight of disciplinary proceedings, and how they interpret statutory provisions relative to the occupation; and

WHEREAS, some of these professions include but are not limited to physicians, nurses, physical therapists, and pharmacists; and

WHEREAS, per the Louisiana Department of Health's website, there are over twenty Louisiana state licensing boards in this state that are health-related; and

WHEREAS, with respect to the important role that licensing boards play in the legislative process and improvement of the economy statewide, it is vital that the state legislature ensure the efficiency and overall necessity of each licensing board; and

WHEREAS, the proliferation of licensing boards for certain professionals may lead to redundancy, inefficiency, and increased administrative burden, especially for those who provide healthcare services; and

WHEREAS, streamlining the licensing process could potentially improve access to healthcare services, reduce costs, and enhance overall public health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive study is necessary to assess the current landscape of licensing boards for health professionals and identify opportunities for consolidation or harmonization.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the Louisiana Department of Health to study and make recommendations to the House Committee on Health and Welfare on how to reduce the number of licensing boards of health professions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall consist of a thorough analysis of the existing licensing boards for health professionals, including but not limited to physicians, nurses, pharmacists, therapists, and other allied health professionals and assess the feasibility and potential benefits of reducing the number of licensing boards, consolidating overlapping functions, standardizing licensing requirements where appropriate, and promoting interstate reciprocity agreements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including professional associations, licensing boards, healthcare providers, and consumer advocacy groups, to gather input and ensure transparency throughout the process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before February 1, 2025, the Louisiana Department of Health shall submit to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library a written report of its findings and recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES