

1 WHEREAS, in a policy statement posted online in June 2009, the American College
2 of Emergency Physicians observed that thirty percent of its membership was aged fifty years
3 or older and urged the adoption of appropriate workload modifications, including
4 minimizing rotating shifts, moving older physicians off nightshifts, scheduling additional
5 recovery time after nightshifts, shortening shifts to eight to ten hours or less, and
6 encouraging physicians to transition from clinical to administrative work; and

7 WHEREAS, it may be necessary for both patient safety and physician well-being to
8 establish a state policy regarding limits on the practice of medicine by late-career
9 practitioners; and

10 WHEREAS, the policy may include a mandatory retirement age for physicians,
11 periodic recertification requirements, or a process by which late-career physicians'
12 performance and capacities can be fairly and accurately evaluated; and

13 WHEREAS, such an evaluation may include a peer assessment of the practitioner's
14 clinical performance, a comprehensive history and physical exam, a cognitive screening, or
15 any combination of these.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
17 urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals to study the desirability of a
18 prospective state policy regarding the practice of medicine by late-career practitioners.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the department shall
20 solicit the input, recommendations, and advice of the Louisiana State Board of Medical
21 Examiners and the Louisiana State Medical Society, and any other group or organization
22 with an interest in the practice of medicine by late-career practitioners.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall submit a written report of
24 its findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to the
25 issue, to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare and each member of the
26 legislature on or before December 31, 2014.

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

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Hunter

HCR No. 178

Requests the Dept. of Health and Hospitals to study the desirability of a prospective state policy on the practice of medicine by late-career practitioners and report its findings to the Legislature by Dec. 31, 2014.