

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 87

BY SENATOR JOHNS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy to study and make recommendations regarding the use of the terms "specialty drug" and "specialty pharmacy".

WHEREAS, the legislature has charged the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy with the authority and responsibility of regulating the profession and practice of pharmacy in the interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the board accomplishes its mission through two broad objectives – to restrict the entry into the practice of pharmacy to those persons meeting the minimum qualifications for licensure and to monitor and regulate the professional practice of its licensees to ensure their compliance with the laws and rules governing the practice of pharmacy; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the term "specialty drug" has become one of the fastest growing drug categories with no clear and consistent definition of the term; and

WHEREAS, defining the term "specialty drug" can be a challenge as each key stakeholder has a different perspective and different interpretation of what is encompassed by this term; and

WHEREAS, although the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services defines "specialty drug" as a drug costing more than six hundred dollars per month, there is no consistent definition among the United States Food and Drug Administration, employers, health plans, pharmacy benefit managers, other health care stakeholders, or even in Louisiana law defining "specialty drug"; and

WHEREAS, use of the term "specialty pharmacy" has also increased in recent years without the benefit of a clear and concise definition; and

WHEREAS, in general, a "specialty pharmacy" may be considered a pharmacy that has been created to manage the handling and service requirements of specialty pharmaceuticals (drugs), including dispensing, distribution, reimbursement, case management, and other services specific to patients with rare or chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, the uncertainty, inconsistent, and unregulated use of the terms "specialty drug" and "specialty pharmacy" in Louisiana can create obstacles that prevent patient access to much needed medications.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy to study and make recommendations regarding the use of the terms "specialty drug" and "specialty pharmacy" and whether revisions to present laws, rules or regulations of the state are necessary to ensure that the terms are consistently used in Louisiana in such a way as to not inhibit patient access.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in performing the study, the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy shall engage and solicit input, recommendations, and advice from entities or individuals knowledgeable about access to specialty drugs, including but not limited to consumers, patients, medical providers, pharmacists, pharmacy benefit managers, pharmaceutical drug manufacturers, and insurers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy submit a written report of its findings, together with any recommendations in the form of proposed legislation, to the Legislature of Louisiana no later than February 1, 2017.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES