

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 244

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUSTIN MILLER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana State Board of Nursing and the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners, jointly, to study the feasibility and desirability of merging the two boards, and to report findings of the study to the House Committee on Health and Welfare.

WHEREAS, nurses play an exceptionally large and vital role in the healthcare systems of Louisiana and the nation overall; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of R.S. 37:911 et seq. establish and provide for the Louisiana State Board of Nursing for the purposes of promoting, preserving, and protecting the public health, safety, and welfare by regulating nursing education and practice and ensuring that any individual practicing nursing or using the title "registered nurse" or "advanced practice registered nurse" is properly trained and licensed before engaging in such practice; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of R.S. 37:961 et seq. establish and provide for the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners for the purposes of licensing practical nurses and regulating the practice of practical nursing, which is defined in pertinent part as the performance for compensation of any acts, not requiring the education, training, and preparation required in professional nursing, in the care, treatment, or observation of persons who are ill, injured, or infirm and for the maintenance of the health of others and the promotion of health care under the direction of a registered nurse or a licensed physician, optometrist, or dentist; and

WHEREAS, while the Louisiana State Board of Nursing and the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners each play an important role in protecting the public health by regulating health professions on which our state depends, Louisiana is one of only

three U.S. states that employ separate boards to license registered nurses and practical nurses; and

WHEREAS, numerous administrative efficiencies and other advantages of having a single board license both registered nurses and practical nurses can be found among the forty-seven states that do so.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana State Board of Nursing and the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners, jointly, to study the feasibility and desirability of merging the two boards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Board of Nursing and the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners shall develop a written report of findings of the study requested by this Resolution, and shall submit the report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing and the executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES