

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 66

BY REPRESENTATIVE TALBOT

DRUGS/PRESCRIPTION: Requests a study concerning the prospective establishment of a state prescription drug importation program

1                                            A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2    To urge and request the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health to study the  
3            prospective establishment of a state program for importation of prescription drugs  
4            from Canada and to report findings of the study to the House Committee on  
5            Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the legislative committees  
6            on health and welfare.

7            WHEREAS, prescription drugs are the single most costly segment of healthcare  
8            spending in the United States, accounting for more than twenty-two cents of every healthcare  
9            premium dollar expended in this country; and

10            WHEREAS, costs of prescription drugs in the United States continue to rise and now  
11            outpace the nation's spending on physician services, inpatient hospital services, and  
12            outpatient treatment; and

13            WHEREAS, Louisiana, through House Bill No. 384 of this 2018 Regular Session,  
14            and several other states have proposed to institute prescription drug importation programs  
15            as a solution to the worsening fiscal and public health problem of uncontrolled growth in  
16            prescription drug costs; and

17            WHEREAS, the legal framework for such prescription drug importation programs  
18            was established through Public Law 108-173, the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement,  
19            and Modernization Act of 2003; and

20            WHEREAS, federal law, 21 U.S.C. 384, provides in pertinent part that the secretary  
21            of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, after consultation with the

1 United States Trade Representative and the commissioner of Customs and Border Protection,  
2 shall promulgate regulations permitting pharmacists and wholesalers to import prescription  
3 drugs from Canada into the United States.

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
5 urge and request the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health to study the  
6 prospective establishment of a state program for importation of prescription drugs from  
7 Canada, and to issue findings and recommendations from the study in the form of a report  
8 to the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance, the House  
9 Committee on Health and Welfare, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare no  
10 later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2019 Regular Session of the Legislature  
11 of Louisiana.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if requested by the secretary of the Louisiana  
13 Department of Health, the commissioner of insurance shall assist and collaborate in  
14 developing the study called for in this Resolution.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the model for the program to be studied may be  
16 the program proposed in House Bill No. 384 of this 2018 Regular Session, a program  
17 proposed by any other state, or any combination of these.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
19 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and to the commissioner of insurance.

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#### 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)]

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HCR 66 Original

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Talbot

Requests the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health to study the prospective establishment of a state program for importation of prescription drugs from Canada.