

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 70

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

VETERANS: Provides relative to healthcare licensing boards reporting to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare on their recognition of military veterans training in various healthcare occupations

1                                           A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2    To authorize and request the House and Senate committees on health and welfare to meet  
3            and function as a joint committee to study certain healthcare occupational licensing  
4            boards timely and cost effective pathways for military veterans with medical training  
5            to practice lawfully in civilian healthcare jobs in Louisiana.

6            WHEREAS, hundreds of military veterans transition out of military service each year  
7    from Louisiana military bases including Barksdale Air Force Base, Fort Polk Army Base,  
8    the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, and the Louisiana National Guard  
9    Camp Beauregard; and

10            WHEREAS, these outgoing military personnel include Army medics, Air Force  
11   medical technicians or Navy corpsmen, and Special Operation Forces Combat Medics, and  
12   may include many other medical and healthcare related military occupational specialties or  
13   MOS; and

14            WHEREAS, these veterans often need civilian employment to support themselves  
15   and their families here in Louisiana, but frequently encounter difficulty in translating their  
16   military licensing, certifications, and experience in the healthcare field into comparable  
17   civilian occupational licenses; and

18            WHEREAS, numerous studies have documented this challenge for outgoing military  
19   personnel across the country, such as the United States Department of Labor's 2016 report  
20   titled "Licensing and Certification for Veterans: State Strategies for Successfully Removing

1 Barriers", and the National Council of State Board of Nursing's Revised 2016 report, which  
2 demonstrates and recommends one such path to how military branches' training requirements  
3 can be quantified, compared and credited so as to shorten a veteran medic's pathway to a  
4 licensed practical nurse or vocational nurse; and

5 WHEREAS, this model could be reviewed and followed by Louisiana licensing  
6 boards seeking to shorten the path for military-trained healthcare professionals seeking to  
7 practice lawfully as licensed practical nurses, physician's assistants, registered nurses,  
8 physical therapists, or any number of other civilian professions; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2012, the Louisiana Legislature enacted R.S. 37:3651 which  
10 currently requires professional or occupational licensing boards to issue a license to  
11 military-trained applicants when the military occupational specialty they performed "is  
12 substantially equivalent to or exceeds the educational, examination, experience and other  
13 requirements for licensure"; and

14 WHEREAS, veterans nevertheless still frequently encounter hurdles, and sometimes  
15 the complete inability, to convert their military healthcare certifications and experience to  
16 a license to practice lawfully in Louisiana; and

17 WHEREAS, military-trained healthcare professionals would provide invaluable  
18 healthcare services particularly in rural areas of Louisiana, where there is a shortage of  
19 primary care healthcare providers.

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
21 authorize and request the House and Senate committees on health and welfare to meet and  
22 function as a joint committee to study certain healthcare occupational licensing boards  
23 timely and cost effective pathways for military veterans with medical training to practice  
24 lawfully in civilian healthcare jobs in Louisiana.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint committee shall solicit input and  
26 recommendations from the following boards on what steps each board has taken to provide  
27 credit for prior military training and certifications in their licensing process:

- 28 (1) Louisiana State Board of Dentistry.
- 29 (2) Louisiana Emergency Medical Services Certification Commission.
- 30 (3) Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.

- 1 (4) Louisiana State Board of Nursing.
- 2 (5) Louisiana Board of Pharmacy.
- 3 (6) Louisiana State Board of Physician Assistants Advisory Committee.
- 4 (7) Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners.
- 5 (8) Louisiana Physical Therapy Board.
- 6 (9) Bureau of Emergency Medical Services.
- 7 (10) Any other licensing board deemed pertinent by the committees for easing the
- 8 burden of licensing faced by military-trained healthcare professionals seeking licensing in
- 9 Louisiana.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the speaker of the House of Representatives  
 11 shall appoint one additional member of the House of Representatives to the study committee  
 12 as an ad hoc member.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the president of the Senate shall appoint one  
 14 additional member of the Senate to the study committee as an ad hoc member.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House and Senate committees on health and  
 16 welfare shall report its findings to the legislature prior to the convening of the 2019 Regular  
 17 Session of the Legislature.

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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 70 Original	2018 Regular Session	Hodges
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Requests the House and Senate committees on health and welfare to meet and function as a joint committee to study certain healthcare occupational licensing boards' timely and cost effective pathways for military veterans with medical training to practice lawfully in civilian healthcare jobs in Louisiana.

Requests the joint committee to report its findings to the legislature prior to the 2019 R.S.