

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 55

BY REPRESENTATIVES HOFFMANN, BAGLEY, COX, HENSGENS, HORTON,
POPE, RICHARD, AND STOKES

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners and the Louisiana State Board of Nursing to disseminate information concerning bone marrow donations to healthcare providers for the purpose of enhancing public awareness of bone marrow donations.

WHEREAS, since 1987, when the United States Congress authorized the establishment of a national registry of volunteer bone marrow donors, the National Marrow Donor Program, now publicly known as Be The Match, has facilitated more than seventy-four thousand marrow and umbilical cord blood transplants; and

WHEREAS, Be The Match states that the number of transplants facilitated through the national Be The Match Registry is only a fraction of the people who can benefit; and

WHEREAS, one of the leading hurdles cited in a report by the United States Government Accountability Office is locating a suitably matched, unrelated donor, a process that is often difficult, time-consuming, and costly; and

WHEREAS, seventy percent of patients do not have a donor in their family and rely upon the national registry to find a match; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to enhance the understanding of the importance of bone marrow donation, and to encourage residents of Louisiana to participate in bone marrow donation drives; and

WHEREAS, the bone marrow registration process is simple as it takes only a few minutes and requires a cheek swab; and

WHEREAS, a bone marrow transplant may be the best treatment option or the only potential for a cure for patients with leukemia, lymphoma, sickle cell anemia, and many other diseases; and

WHEREAS, as the science of transplant continues to advance, new diseases are being treated with bone marrow transplants; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 40:1263.2 established the Louisiana Organ Transplant Assistance Program within the office of the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, through the program, the department educates residents of Louisiana about the need for bone marrow donors, the procedures required to become registered as a potential bone marrow donor, including the procedures for determining the person's tissue type, and the medical procedures a donor must undergo to donate bone marrow or other sources of blood stem cells and the attendant risks of the procedure; and

WHEREAS, the department is also directed to make special efforts to educate and recruit minority populations to volunteer as potential bone marrow donors; and

WHEREAS, currently no provision requires that the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners and the Louisiana State Board of Nursing to disseminate information concerning bone marrow donations to healthcare providers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners and the Louisiana State Board of Nursing to disseminate information concerning bone marrow donations to healthcare providers for the purpose of enhancing public awareness of bone marrow donations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the information the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners and the Louisiana State Board of Nursing shall provide concerning bone marrow donations to healthcare providers licensed by the boards, for dissemination to patients, shall include the following:

- (1) The need for bone marrow donations.
- (2) Patient populations that would benefit from bone marrow donations.
- (3) How to join the national bone marrow registry.
- (4) How to acquire a free buccal swab kit from the national bone marrow registry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners and the Louisiana State Board of Nursing may each exercise discretion in determining which healthcare providers be responsible for disseminating the information provided for in this Resolution to patients.

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE