

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 70

BY REPRESENTATIVES HODGES, BAGLEY, CHANEY, COX, HENSGENS,
HOFFMANN, HORTON, JACKSON, AND DUSTIN MILLER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request 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.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, numerous studies have documented this challenge for outgoing military personnel across the country, such as the United States Department of Labor's 2016 report titled "Licensing and Certification for Veterans: State Strategies for Successfully Removing Barriers", and the National Council of State Board of Nursing's Revised 2016 report, which demonstrates and recommends one such path to how military branches' training requirements can be quantified, compared and credited so as to shorten a veteran medic's pathway to a licensed practical nurse or vocational nurse; and

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request 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.

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

- (1) Louisiana State Board of Dentistry.
- (2) Louisiana Emergency Medical Services Certification Commission.
- (3) Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.
- (4) Louisiana State Board of Nursing.
- (5) Louisiana Board of Pharmacy.
- (6) Louisiana State Board of Physician Assistants Advisory Committee.
- (7) Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners.
- (8) Louisiana Physical Therapy Board.

(9) Bureau of Emergency Medical Services.

(10) Any other licensing board deemed pertinent by the committees for easing the burden of licensing faced by military-trained healthcare professionals seeking licensing in Louisiana.

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

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

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE