

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 155

BY REPRESENTATIVE TURNER

A RESOLUTION

To create and provide for a study group to evaluate options and make recommendations for reforming healthcare workforce training and development in this state and to report its findings concerning these matters to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Louisiana's healthcare professionals are indispensable to our families and communities; and

WHEREAS, because healthcare workforce needs are ever-changing, our state must implement reforms to create a dynamic system for identifying and fulfilling these needs; and

WHEREAS, fostering the training of sufficient numbers of healthcare professionals such as physician assistants and nurse practitioners, as well as allied health professionals who work in primary care settings, will assist in making primary care services more accessible to the people of our state; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with existing programs for the training of family physicians, renewing efforts to increase the ranks of highly trained physician assistants, nurses, and allied health professionals practicing in Louisiana will lead to a much-improved healthcare delivery system for our state; and

WHEREAS, community hospitals, rural hospitals, and other health systems offering healthcare workforce training in affiliation or association with accredited institutions of higher education will help in meeting the need for health care in our state's many health professional shortage areas and medically underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, because Louisiana has a pronounced shortage of nurses, and this shortage has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, stimulating a greater supply of nurses and improving career ladders for these essential healthcare workers are vital public health priorities of this state; and

WHEREAS, this state would benefit from a thorough study which identifies the parties who have responsibility for oversight of educational programs that produce healthcare professionals and yields recommendations concerning the extent to which healthcare professional licensing boards should have influence on the structure and operation of such programs; and

WHEREAS, the ideal study would look broadly across the careers that require undergraduate credentialing, both in Louisiana and across other states, to establish what level of consistency of approach is appropriate for the teaching and training of nurses and other essential healthcare professionals; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to determine where oversight lies currently, and where it should properly lie, in the formation and delivery of healthcare professional education programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create a study group to evaluate options and make recommendations for reforming healthcare workforce training and development in this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.
- (2) One member appointed by the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges.
- (3) One member appointed by the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.
- (4) One member appointed by the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.
- (5) One member appointed by the chairman of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System.
- (6) One member appointed by the chairman of the board of directors of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.
- (7) One member appointed by the president of the Louisiana Hospital Association.
- (8) One member appointed by the president of the Louisiana State Nurses Association.

(9) One member appointed by the executive director of the Louisiana State Medical Society.

(10) One member appointed by the president of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners.

(11) One member appointed by the executive director of the Louisiana Nursing Home Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the member appointed by the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges shall serve as chairman of the study group.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the matters which the study group shall examine are to include, without limitation, all of the following:

- (1) Healthcare workforce training and development priorities for Louisiana.
- (2) Optimal uses of funds appropriated by the legislature for healthcare education and training.
- (3) Standards and guidelines for health professions education and training programs funded through legislative appropriations.
- (4) Outcomes data from health professions education and training programs.
- (5) Systems for prioritizing health professions education and training needs of Louisiana communities.
- (6) Options for developing a statewide health professions education and training funding strategy.
- (7) Sources of funding to stimulate expansion of health professions education and training.
- (8) Sources of technical assistance and support for establishing new health professions education and training programs in Louisiana.
- (9) Means for establishing and enhancing health professions career ladders and pathways.
- (10) Means for induction of new workers into Louisiana's healthcare workforce and for retention of the state's existing healthcare workforce.
- (11) Inefficiencies in current healthcare professional licensure and credentialing systems and impediments to increasing the number of healthcare workers produced.

(12) The extent to which healthcare professional licensing boards should have influence on the structure and operation of educational programs that produce healthcare professionals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group shall submit its findings regarding the matters enumerated in this Resolution, as well as any other findings concerning healthcare workforce training and development as deemed appropriate by the chairman of the study group, in the form of a report to the elected members of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the 2023 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that legislative authority for the study group shall terminate on July 1, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges, the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the chairman of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, the chairman of the board of directors of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the president of the Louisiana Hospital Association, the president of the Louisiana State Nurses Association, the executive director of the Louisiana State Medical Society, the president of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners, and the executive director of the Louisiana Nursing Home Association.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES