HLS 24RS-425 ORIGINAL

2024 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 106

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

BOARDS/COMMISSIONS: Directs the Louisiana Department of Health to study and make recommendations to the legislature on how to reduce the number of licensing boards of health professions

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To direct the Louisiana Department of Health to study and make recommendations to the
3	legislature on how to reduce the number of licensing boards of health professions.
4	WHEREAS, an article by the S. J. Harris Law Firm stated that, in the United States,
5	licensing is a state-based system that allows state licensing boards to assist state
6	governments in regulating the licensure process for any profession that requires licensure;
7	and
8	WHEREAS, the responsibilities of licensing boards include the evaluation of an
9	applicant's education and supervised experience and a determination of an applicant's
10	licensure eligibility; and
11	WHEREAS, licensing boards are also responsible for ensuring that occupational
12	practices are monitored through efficient systems and programs, which includes assurance
13	that each occupation is following current events and new implementations within the
14	profession; and
15	WHEREAS, based on recent trends within each profession, licensing boards are also
16	tasked with suggesting regulatory amendments if necessary; and
17	WHEREAS, according to a 2020 article from the Goldwater Institute, licensing
18	boards have significant influence over the rules that govern their respective licensees, which
19	includes oversight of disciplinary proceedings, and how they interpret statutory provisions
20	relative to the occupation; and

1 WHEREAS, some of these professions include but are not limited to physicians, 2 nurses, physical therapists, and pharmacists; and 3 WHEREAS, per the Louisiana Department of Health's website, there are over twenty 4 Louisiana state licensing boards in this state that are health-related; and 5 WHEREAS, with respect to the important role that licensing boards play in the 6 legislative process and improvement of the economy statewide, it is vital that the state 7 legislature ensure the efficiency and overall necessity of each licensing board; and 8 WHEREAS, the proliferation of licensing boards for certain professionals may lead 9 to redundancy, inefficiency, and increased administrative burden, especially for those who 10 provide healthcare services; and 11 WHEREAS, streamlining the licensing process could potentially improve access to 12 healthcare services, reduce costs, and enhance overall public health outcomes; and 13 WHEREAS, a comprehensive study is necessary to assess the current landscape of 14 licensing boards for health professionals and identify opportunities for consolidation or 15 harmonization. 16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 17 direct the Louisiana Department of Health to study and make recommendations to the 18 legislature on how to reduce the number of licensing boards of health professions. 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall consist of a thorough analysis of 20 the existing licensing boards for health professionals, including but not limited to physicians, 21 nurses, pharmacists, therapists, and other allied health professionals and assess the feasibility 22 and potential benefits of reducing the number of licensing boards, consolidating overlapping 23 functions, standardizing licensing requirements where appropriate, and promoting interstate 24 reciprocity agreements. 25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall 26 collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including professional associations, licensing boards, 27 healthcare providers, and consumer advocacy groups, to gather input and ensure 28 transparency throughout the process. 29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before February 1, 2025, the Louisiana

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Department of Health shall submit to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, Senate

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1 Committee on Health and Welfare, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library

- 2 a written report of its findings and recommendations.
- 3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
- 4 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

## **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)]

HCR 106 Original

2024 Regular Session

Echols

Directs the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) to study and make recommendations to the legislature on how to reduce the number of licensing boards of health professions.

Directs LDH to submit its findings and recommendations in the form of a written report on or before Feb. 1, 2025.