

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 207

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

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

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To direct the Louisiana Department of Health to study and make recommendations on how
3 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 House of Representatives of the
17 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the Louisiana Department of Health to study and
18 make recommendations to the House Committee on Health and Welfare on how to reduce
19 the number of licensing boards of health professions.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall consist of a thorough analysis of
21 the existing licensing boards for health professionals, including but not limited to physicians,
22 nurses, pharmacists, therapists, and other allied health professionals and assess the feasibility
23 and potential benefits of reducing the number of licensing boards, consolidating overlapping
24 functions, standardizing licensing requirements where appropriate, and promoting interstate
25 reciprocity agreements.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall
27 collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including professional associations, licensing boards,
28 healthcare providers, and consumer advocacy groups, to gather input and ensure
29 transparency throughout the process.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before February 1, 2025, the Louisiana
2 Department of Health shall submit to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the
3 David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library a written report of its findings and
4 recommendations.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
6 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)]

HR 207 Original

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Echols

Directs the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) to study and make recommendations to the House Committee on Health and Welfare 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.