

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 100

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request each police jury that appoints commissioners for their respective hospital service district to include a representative of the nursing profession as an appointee on the hospital service district commission.

WHEREAS, nearly seventy-five years ago, the legislature enacted laws to grant parish governing authorities the ability to create hospital service districts for the purpose of owning and operating hospitals within the district; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the enabling legislation, hospital service districts are governed by a board of commissioners that are responsible for appointing a hospital director, executives, and a medical staff; and

WHEREAS, in the hospital service district enabling legislation, there is no statutory recognition or acknowledgment of nurses; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2022 Nurse Supply Report issued by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, on December 31, 2022, there were 65,596 registered nurses holding an active license to practice in Louisiana, and of those 32,763, a staggering 60% were employed by hospitals; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2019 United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, registered nurses made up 30% of hospital employment, making it the largest hospital occupation; and

WHEREAS, each hospital is required to provide 24-hour nursing services; and

WHEREAS, nurses engage with hospital patients and patient family members more on a daily basis than any other health care professional; therefore, they can provide critical insight into the patient care experience and patient needs from a different perspective than other hospital professionals; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request each police jury that appoints commissioners for their respective hospital service district to include a representative of the nursing profession as an appointee on the hospital service district commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to each police jury that currently appoints commissioners to a hospital service district commission pursuant to R.S. 46:1053.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE