HLS 14RS-2395 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2014

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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 99

## BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON

PUBLIC HEALTH: Requests a study and recommendations by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners concerning over-prescribing of pain medication

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners to study the problem
3	of over-prescribing of pain medication by physicians and to report findings and
4	recommendations to the legislative committees on health and welfare.
5	WHEREAS, over-prescribing of pain medication has emerged as a major public
6	health concern in this state and nationally; and
7	WHEREAS, a dramatic increase in prescriptions for opioid pain medications has
8	occurred over the past decade as physicians generally have become less restrained in
9	prescribing these drugs; and
10	WHEREAS, while the majority of patients to whom pain medications are prescribed
11	use these drugs safely and with no intention of abusing the drugs, an ever-growing number
12	of patients are becoming addicted to these medications; and
13	WHEREAS, the consequences of addiction are terrible and often tragic for
14	individuals and families; and
15	WHEREAS, similarly, in terms of population health and costs to the public, the
16	prevalence of prescription drug abuse presents real burdens and avoidable costs in areas such
17	as law enforcement, criminal justice, and health care; and
18	WHEREAS, because of its unique qualifications as the regulatory body for the
19	practice of medicine in this state, the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners is the
20	proper authority to which the legislature should turn for guidance concerning over-
21	prescribing of pain medication by physicians.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 2 urge and request the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners to study the problem of 3 over-prescribing of pain medication by physicians. 4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners shall engage and solicit input from the Louisiana Board of 5 6 Pharmacy on matters related to monitoring of controlled substances and drugs of concern 7 prescribed and dispensed in this state. 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners 9 shall provide findings of the study in the form of a written report to the House Committee 10 on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare no later than sixty 11 days prior to the convening of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana. 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

## **DIGEST**

executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.

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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)]

Harrison HCR No. 99

Requests the La. State Board of Medical Examiners to study the problem of over-prescribing of pain medication by physicians and to report findings and recommendations to the legislative committees on health and welfare.