

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 99

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana 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.

WHEREAS, over-prescribing of pain medication has emerged as a major public health concern in this state and nationally; and

WHEREAS, a dramatic increase in prescriptions for opioid pain medications has occurred over the past decade as physicians generally have become less restrained in prescribing these drugs; and

WHEREAS, while the majority of patients to whom pain medications are prescribed use these drugs safely and with no intention of abusing the drugs, an ever-growing number of patients are becoming addicted to these medications; and

WHEREAS, the consequences of addiction are terrible and often tragic for individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, similarly, in terms of population health and costs to the public, the prevalence of prescription drug abuse presents real burdens and avoidable costs in areas such as law enforcement, criminal justice, and health care; and

WHEREAS, because of its unique qualifications as the regulatory body for the practice of medicine in this state, the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners is the proper authority to which the legislature should turn for guidance concerning over-prescribing of pain medication by physicians.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners to study the problem of over-prescribing of pain medication by physicians.

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 Pharmacy on matters related to monitoring of controlled substances and drugs of concern prescribed and dispensed in this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners shall provide findings of the study in the form of a written report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE