

1 WHEREAS, "health practitioner" is defined in Children's Code Article 603 as any
2 individual who provides health care services, including a physician, surgeon, physical
3 therapist, dentist, resident, intern, hospital staff member, podiatrist, chiropractor, licensed
4 nurse, nursing aide, dental hygienist, any emergency medical technician, a paramedic,
5 optometrist, medical examiner, or coroner, who diagnoses, examines, or treats a child or his
6 family; and

7 WHEREAS, these health practitioners are licensed by regulatory boards and
8 commissions created within DHH, and the great majority practice their professions in
9 healthcare facilities that are licensed by the health standards section of DHH; and

10 WHEREAS, beyond the exercise of their duties as mandatory reporters, health
11 practitioners play other key roles in the child welfare system as they treat victims of child
12 abuse, provide expert testimony in abuse and neglect cases before courts of law, and advise
13 others concerning the health dimensions of abuse; and

14 WHEREAS, because health practitioners are uniquely situated in the child welfare
15 system, and because victims of abuse cannot be treated and cared for if the abuse is not
16 identified, it is important that health practitioners are empowered to the greatest extent
17 possible to carry out their duties as mandatory reporters of child abuse; and

18 WHEREAS, access to information on reports of prior abuse or neglect of a certain
19 child could make the difference in whether a health practitioner is able to identify an
20 instance of abuse of that child.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
22 urge and request the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of
23 Health and Hospitals, jointly, to study prospective implementation of an information system
24 that would enhance the ability of health practitioners to identify child abuse.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study to be conducted by the departments
26 shall include an analysis of the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of operating a system
27 through which health practitioners may access information on whether a specific child has
28 been the subject of a prior report of suspected abuse or neglect.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in performing the analysis of the prospective
30 information system requested by this Resolution, the departments shall consider the extent

1 to which the system could be incorporated within existing technology infrastructure of the
2 state, and shall prioritize cost-minimizing options for implementing the system.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departments, jointly, shall submit a written
4 report of recommendations for implementation of the system described in this Resolution,
5 along with any other findings and recommendations relative to enhancing the ability of
6 health practitioners to identify child abuse, to the House Committee on Health and Welfare
7 and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare no later than sixty days prior to the
8 convening of the 2016 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
10 secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services and the secretary of the
11 Department of Health and Hospitals.

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)]

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2015 Regular Session

Henry

Urges and requests the Dept. of Children and Family Services and the Dept. of Health and Hospitals, jointly, to study prospective implementation of an information system to enhance the ability of health practitioners to identify child abuse.

Requests that in conducting the study, the departments consider the extent to which the system could be incorporated within existing technology infrastructure of the state.

Requests that the departments report findings of the study and recommendations to the legislative committees on health and welfare no later than 60 days prior to the convening of the 2016 RS.