

1 WHEREAS, generally, animal medications are supplied to veterinarians only, which
2 can result in higher prices for owners when pharmacies purchase animal medications for
3 dispensing from secondary distributors; and

4 WHEREAS, the commission's report states that improved consumer access to
5 portable prescriptions would likely enhance competition in the animal medications industry;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the report also states that increased availability of low-priced generic
8 animal drugs would likely result in significant cost savings to the consumer; and

9 WHEREAS, pursuant to administrative rules promulgated by the Louisiana Board
10 of Veterinary Medicine, an animal owner is not obligated to purchase a prescription
11 medication from the prescribing veterinarian; and

12 WHEREAS, according to the board's administrative rules, when a
13 veterinarian-client-patient relationship exists and a veterinarian has determined that a
14 prescription medication will be used in a patient's treatment or preventive health plan, it is
15 a violation of the rules of professional conduct promulgated by the board for a veterinarian
16 to refuse to provide a written prescription to the animal owner if both of the following
17 conditions exist:

18 (1) The veterinarian has determined that the patient's life is not endangered
19 without the immediate administration of the prescription medication.

20 (2) In the veterinarian's medical opinion, the prescribed substance is medically
21 safe for in-home administration; and

22 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry was created to administer
23 the programs and enforce the regulations that impact every aspect of the state's agriculture
24 and forestry including the health and well-being of the state's animal population.

25 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
26 authorize and direct the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to study the desirability and
27 feasibility of requiring veterinarians to provide a copy of prescriptions to animal owners and
28 to provide notice of the availability of generic medicines.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
30 commissioner of agriculture and forestry.

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)]

HCR 126 Original

2016 Regular Session

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