HLS 16RS-1255

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 126

BY REPRESENTATIVE FOIL

ANIMALS: Authorizes and directs the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to study the desirability and feasibility of requiring veterinarians to provide a copy of prescriptions to animal owners and to provide notice of the availability of generic medicines

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To authorize and direct the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to study the desirability
3	and feasibility of requiring veterinarians to provide a copy of prescriptions to animal
4	owners and to provide notice of the availability of generic medicines.
5	WHEREAS, animals, like humans, are prone to illness and need medicine to treat
6	and prevent disease; and
7	WHEREAS, according to a 2015 report by the Federal Trade Commission, the
8	United States market for animal medications is growing and is in a state of transition; and
9	WHEREAS, according to the commission's report, while it is common for animal
10	owners to purchase medications directly from veterinarians, this traditional distribution
11	model is being challenged by the entry and expansion of retail businesses, both online and
12	brick-and-mortar, that sell animal medications; and
13	WHEREAS, veterinary practices may be uniquely suited to dispense animal
14	medications because animals often require dosages that differ substantially from those used
15	in humans, and which might be unfamiliar to pharmacists; and
16	WHEREAS, drugs can often have a different physiological effect in animals than in
17	humans; and
18	WHEREAS, animal owners already have the flexibility to fill a prescription at their
19	veterinary clinic or off-site at a pharmacy of their choice; and

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- 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 а 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.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
 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)]

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