

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 244

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUSTIN MILLER

BOARDS/COMMISSIONS: Requests the La. State Board of Nursing and the La. State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners to study and report on a prospective merger of the two boards

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana State Board of Nursing and the Louisiana State Board of
3 Practical Nurse Examiners, jointly, to study the feasibility and desirability of
4 merging the two boards, and to report findings of the study to the House Committee
5 on Health and Welfare.

6 WHEREAS, nurses play an exceptionally large and vital role in the healthcare
7 systems of Louisiana and the nation overall; and

8 WHEREAS, the provisions of R.S. 37:911 et seq. establish and provide for the
9 Louisiana State Board of Nursing for the purposes of promoting, preserving, and protecting
10 the public health, safety, and welfare by regulating nursing education and practice and
11 ensuring that any individual practicing nursing or using the title "registered nurse" or
12 "advanced practice registered nurse" is properly trained and licensed before engaging in such
13 practice; and

14 WHEREAS, the provisions of R.S. 37:961 et seq. establish and provide for the
15 Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners for the purposes of licensing practical
16 nurses and regulating the practice of practical nursing, which is defined in pertinent part as
17 the performance for compensation of any acts, not requiring the education, training, and
18 preparation required in professional nursing, in the care, treatment, or observation of persons
19 who are ill, injured, or infirm and for the maintenance of the health of others and the

1 promotion of health care under the direction of a registered nurse or a licensed physician,
2 optometrist, or dentist; and

3 WHEREAS, while the Louisiana State Board of Nursing and the Louisiana State
4 Board of Practical Nurse Examiners each play an important role in protecting the public
5 health by regulating health professions on which our state depends, Louisiana is one of only
6 three U.S. states that employ separate boards to license registered nurses and practical
7 nurses; and

8 WHEREAS, numerous administrative efficiencies and other advantages of having
9 a single board license both registered nurses and practical nurses can be found among the
10 forty-seven states that do so.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
12 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana State Board of Nursing
13 and the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners, jointly, to study the feasibility
14 and desirability of merging the two boards.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Board of Nursing and the
16 Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners shall develop a written report of
17 findings of the study requested by this Resolution, and shall submit the report to the House
18 Committee on Health and Welfare no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2017
19 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
21 executive director of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing and the executive director of the
22 Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners.

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)]

HR 244 Original

2016 Regular Session

Dustin Miller

Urges and requests the La. State Board of Nursing and the La. State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners, jointly, to study the feasibility and desirability of merging the two boards. Requests that the boards report findings of the study to the House Committee on Health and Welfare no later than 60 days prior to the convening of the 2017 R.S.