SLS 24RS-560 ORIGINAL

2024 Regular Session

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identifies physicians; and

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

HOSPITALS. Requests hospital service districts to include nurse representation on their patient care decision-making body.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request each hospital service district in Louisiana to include nurse representation on their patient care decision-making body. 3 4 WHEREAS, nearly seventy-five years ago, the legislature enacted laws to grant 5 parish governing authorities the ability to create hospital service districts for the purpose of 6 owning and operating hospitals within the district; and 7 WHEREAS, pursuant to the enabling legislation, hospital service districts are 8 governed by a board of commissioners that are responsible for appointing a hospital director, 9 executives, and a medical staff; and 10 WHEREAS, the statutorily created medical staff includes physicians who practice 11 within the hospital who are responsible for providing professional care of sick and injured 12 patients, advising relative to standards of operation and professional problems, participating 13 in educational activities in the district, regulating the conduct of the medical staff, electing 14 a chief of staff, and approving the appointment of the hospital director made by the commission; and 15 16 WHEREAS, in the hospital service district enabling legislation, there is no statutory recognition or acknowledgment of nurses and the medical staff enabling legislation only 17

1	WHEREAS, nearly seventy-five years ago the world viewed nurses differently than
2	they do today, but sadly, in many cases, nurses are still fighting to have their voices heard
3	in a hospital setting despite being a critical part of the overall patient care team; and
4	WHEREAS, according to the 2022 Nurse Supply Report issued by the Louisiana
5	State Board of Nursing, on December 31, 2022 there were 65,596 registered nurses holding
6	an active license to practice in Louisiana, and of those 32,763, a staggering 60%, were
7	employed by hospitals; and
8	WHEREAS, according to the 2019 United States Bureau of Labor Statistics,
9	registered nurses made up 30% of hospital employment, making it the largest hospital
10	occupation; and
11	WHEREAS, nurses engage with hospital patients and patient family members more
12	on a daily basis than physicians or any other health care professionals, therefore they can
13	provide critical insight into the patient care experience and patient needs from a different
14	perspective than other hospital professionals; and
15	WHEREAS, as a standard operating practice, it is widely accepted that many hospital
16	service district boards have established medical executive committees as their patient care
17	decision-making body; and
18	WHEREAS, a medical executive committee is responsible for making decisions
19	related to medical staff policies and procedures; and
20	WHEREAS, each hospital service district should have a medical executive
21	committee and each medical executive committee could benefit from the diversity and
22	perspective that nurses contribute.
23	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
24	request each hospital service district in Louisiana to include nurse representation on its
25	patient care decision-making body.
26	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than January 1, 2025, each hospital
27	service district shall report to the Louisiana Department of Health on the formal name of its
28	patient care decision making body, specifically whether the body is known as the medical
29	executive committee or some other designation, and shall include in its report the

composition of its patient care decision-making body.

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SLS 24RS-560 ORIGINAL SCR NO. 8

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SCR 8 Original

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall compile the information provided by the hospital service districts and submit the information to the legislature no later than February 1, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health who shall disseminate a copy to each hospital service district in the state.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Amanda Trapp.

DIGEST 2024 Regular Session

Boudreaux

Requests each hospital service district in Louisiana to include nurse representation on their patient care decision-making body and to report certain information to the Louisiana Department of Health.