

1 WHEREAS, nationally, there is a trend of physician's offices, particularly those
2 specializing in obstetrics, retaining a licensed midwife on staff to meet the demands of their
3 patients seeking this form of delivery assistance; and

4 WHEREAS, nationally, the number of children born with the assistance of a midwife
5 has increased significantly during the last decade; and

6 WHEREAS, Louisiana is likely to experience a similar increase in midwife-assisted
7 births; and

8 WHEREAS, there are a limited number of certified and registered midwives in the
9 state of Louisiana; and

10 WHEREAS, no programs in midwifery education are offered in Louisiana and there
11 are limited programs available in the surrounding states; and

12 WHEREAS, the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners is presently
13 responsible for the current licensure and certification functions for the midwifery profession;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, the limited number of certified midwives in Louisiana and the lack of
16 functioning midwife education programs is a growing concern.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
18 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Health and
19 Hospitals, in conjunction with the Board of Regents, to study jointly the effectiveness and
20 advisability of the structure of the licensure and certification for midwives as currently
21 provided in the Louisiana Midwife Practitioners Act, to determine the most appropriate
22 agency or organization to provide oversight for licensure and certification, and to report
23 study findings to the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on
24 Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on
25 Education no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2012 Regular Session of the
26 legislature.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
28 to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals, the executive director of the
29 Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, the commissioner of higher education, and the
30 president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

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)]

Chaney

HCR No. 180

Urges and requests DHH, in conjunction with the Board of Regents, to study jointly the effectiveness and advisability of the current structure of licensure and certification for midwives as provided in present law, to determine the most appropriate agency or organization to provide oversight for licensure and certification, and to report study findings to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare and education no later than 60 days prior to the convening of the 2012 R.S.