

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 10

BY SENATOR MILLS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the health profession licensing boards statutorily placed within the Louisiana Department of Health to work with the commissioner of administration to identify funds from their cash and cash equivalent year-end balances that can be transferred into the state general fund.

WHEREAS, there are twenty-five health profession licensing boards statutorily placed within the Louisiana Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, these boards have been created by the legislature to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the patients that utilize the services of the individuals licensed by the boards; and

WHEREAS, the licensing boards have been given authority to impose fees to cover the cost of ensuring that qualified individuals are licensed to practice in their respective health related fields; and

WHEREAS, the licensing boards have been given authority to impose fines and monetary sanctions as a penalty in disciplinary actions against licensed individuals; and

WHEREAS, based on information requested from the office of the Louisiana legislative auditor, it appears that many of the licensing boards are operating with substantial cash and cash equivalent fund balances, amassing considerable reserves in their individual board bank accounts; and

WHEREAS, the monies collected by the licensing boards are not deposited into the state treasury; and

WHEREAS, although maintained as separate bank accounts, there is nothing to prevent the licensing boards from depositing funds into the state treasury; and

WHEREAS, during a financial crisis everyone should step up and willingly do their part to help, and as a statutorily created entity placed within a state government agency, the

twenty-five health profession licensing boards should be no different; and

WHEREAS, the commissioner of administration should work with the twenty-five health profession licensing boards to identify fund balances that may be deposited into the state treasury.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the health profession licensing boards statutorily placed within the Louisiana Department of Health to work with the commissioner of administration to identify funds from their cash and cash equivalent year-end balances that can be transferred into the state general fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commissioner shall develop a template for the collection of data from the licensing boards to ensure consistency in reporting of collected data, including a five year fiscal worksheet that provides:

- (1) Expenses.
- (2) Income from fees.
- (3) Revenue from income, including revenue from licenses, permits and fines identified separately.
- (4) Amount generated from fines and penalties.
- (5) All board liabilities.
- (6) All restricted funds and explanation of specific restrictions.
- (7) Where all funds reside, including all banks or financial institutions if there is more than one.
- (8) Any other information the commissioner deems relevant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commissioner shall distribute the template as expeditiously as possible and the licensing boards shall provide the requested information in conformance with the template on a date set by the commissioner, which shall be no later than May 1, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commissioner shall develop a plan and make recommendations on the mechanism and amounts of a fund transfer from the licensing boards to the state treasury and shall submit such plan to the Senate Committee on Finance and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare no later than May 15, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Health, the commissioner of administration, the executive directors of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, Louisiana State Board of Dentistry, Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners, Louisiana State Board of Optometry Examiners, Louisiana State Board of Examiners for Sanitarians, Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners, Louisiana Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana Board of Examiners for Nursing Facility Administrators, Louisiana Board of Pharmacy, Louisiana Board for Hearing Aid Dealers, Louisiana Radiologic Technology Board of Examiners, Louisiana Physical Therapy Board, Louisiana Licensed Professional Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors Board of Examiners, Louisiana Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority, Louisiana Behavior Analyst Board, Louisiana Board of Drug and Device Distributors, Louisiana Board of Examiners in Dietetics and Nutrition, Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy, Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners, and the Louisiana State Board of Electrolysis Examiners.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE