2019 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 60

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUSTIN MILLER

BOARDS/COMMISSIONS: Urges the La. Health Works Commission to develop policy recommendations for creating safer workplace environments for nurses and social service providers

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Louisiana Health Works Commission, with assistance and guidance
3	from the Nursing Supply and Demand Council and the Department of Children and
4	Family Services, to study and make recommendations concerning potential policy
5	changes for creating safer workplace environments for nurses and social service
6	workers in this state, and to report these recommendations to the legislative
7	committees on health and welfare and on labor and industrial relations.
8	WHEREAS, in a 2016 report entitled "Workplace Safety and Health: Additional
9	Efforts Needed to Help Protect Health Care Workers from Workplace Violence", the
10	Government Accountability Office reported that, based on an analysis of Bureau of Justice
11	Statistics data, over seven hundred thirty thousand cases of healthcare workplace assaults
12	occurred over the five-year span from 2009 through 2013; and
13	WHEREAS, the healthcare and social service professions experience the highest
14	rates of injuries caused by workplace violence; registered nurses, practical nurses, nurse
15	aides, mental health professionals, home health providers, and personal care attendants are
16	all at high risk of such injuries; and
17	WHEREAS, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that healthcare and social
18	service workers suffered sixty-nine percent of all workplace violence injuries in 2016 and
19	are nearly five times as likely to suffer such injuries than workers overall; and

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1 WHEREAS, workplace violence in healthcare and social service sectors is 2 increasing; BLS data shows that private sector injury rates resulting from workplace violence 3 in healthcare and social service professions rose by sixty-three percent between 2006 and 4 2016; and 5 WHEREAS, due to under-reporting of injuries sustained in episodes of workplace 6 violence, actual injury rates from workplace violence are likely to be far higher than those 7 reflected in official statistics; and 8 WHEREAS, violence against workers in healthcare settings results most commonly 9 from assaults by patients, clients, and persons accompanying patients or clients; and 10 WHEREAS, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration 11 (OSHA), of the nearly twenty-five thousand workplace assaults reported annually, 12 approximately three quarters, or over eighteen thousand assaults, occur in healthcare and 13 social service settings; and 14 WHEREAS, OSHA publishes a guidance document entitled "Guidelines for 15 Preventing Workplace Violence for Healthcare and Social Service Workers"; however, this 16 guidance is currently not enforceable; and 17 WHEREAS, absent an enforceable standard for preventing workplace violence, 18 employers are not ultimately required to implement a violence prevention program and 19 workers have insufficient protection from violence in their places of employment; and 20 WHEREAS, in March and April of 2019, several healthcare workers in Louisiana 21 were victims of high-profile workplace violence incidents; tragically, after one of these 22 attacks, a Baton Rouge nurse died as a result of her injuries; and 23 WHEREAS, these violent incidents illustrate the critical importance of workplace 24 safety in healthcare settings and the urgent need to raise awareness of this longstanding 25 issue. 26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 27 urge and request the Louisiana Health Works Commission, with assistance and guidance 28 from the Nursing Supply and Demand Council and the Department of Children and Family 29 Services, to study and make recommendations concerning potential policy changes, 30 including but not limited to potential legislation, for creating safer workplace environments

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in this state for nurses and social service workers, including workers employed by the
 department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Health Works Commission shall
submit a written report of the recommendations called for in this Resolution to the House
Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the House
Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, and the Senate Committee on Labor and
Industrial Relations on or before February 1, 2020.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be dedicated to the memory of

- 9 Lynne Truxillo.
- 10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

11 chairperson of the Louisiana Health Works Commission, the chairperson of the Nursing

- 12 Supply and Demand Council, the secretary of the Department of Children and Family
- 13 Services, and the family of Lynne Truxillo.

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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Requests the La. Health Works Commission, with assistance and guidance from the Nursing Supply and Demand Council and the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS), to study and make recommendations concerning potential policy changes for creating safer workplace environments for nurses and social service workers, including workers employed by DCFS.

Requests the La. Health Works Commission to report recommendations resulting from the study to the legislative committees on health and welfare and on labor and industrial relations on or before Feb. 1, 2020.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

- 1. Request the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to assist and provide guidance in the study called for in the Resolution.
- 2. Request that the study called for in the Resolution examine policies for creating safer workplace environments for nurses and social service workers, including personnel employed by DCFS.