

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

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

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

8 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)]

HCR 60 Reengrossed

2019 Regular Session

Dustin Miller

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.