Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 180

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHANEY

HEALTH/MIDWIVES: Urges and requests the Department of Health and Hospitals, in conjunction with the Board of Regents, to study the effectiveness of current licensure and certification functions for the profession of midwifery

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2 To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals, in conjunction with the Board 3 of Regents, to study jointly the effectiveness and advisability of the structure of the 4 licensure and certification for midwives as currently provided in the Louisiana 5 Midwife Practitioners Act, to determine the most appropriate agency or organization 6 to provide oversight for licensure and certification, and to report study findings to 7 the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Senate Committee on Health and 8 Welfare, the House Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on 9 Education no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2012 Regular Session 10 of the Legislature of Louisiana. 11 WHEREAS, licensed midwives are community-based practitioners who provide 12 comprehensive, holistic, individualized maternity care and alternative birthing services to 13 low risk clients; and 14 WHEREAS, midwifery care is family-centered and individualized to consider the 15 unique cultural, ethnic, psychosocial, nutritional, and educational needs of the client and 16 supports healthy lifestyle habits that benefit the whole family; and 17 WHEREAS, the midwifery profession has made a tremendous contribution to the 18 health and welfare of mothers; and 19 WHEREAS, midwifery continues to advance as a profession as these providers 20 comprise an increasing part of mainstream health care; and

HLS 11RS-3142

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 <u>present law</u>, 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.