

2021 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 133

BY SENATOR BARROW

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT. Provides relative to the prioritization of health equity by the Louisiana Department of Health. (8/1/21)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 40:1263, relative to equity in health care services; to provide for the duties of the Louisiana Department of Health; to provide for best practices and protocols for treating communities with underlying medical conditions and health disparities; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 40:1263 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1263. Health equity; duties of the Louisiana Department of Health

A. The Louisiana Department of Health, in addition to the other powers and duties conferred upon it by law, shall serve as a foundation and resource for addressing health care disparities in vulnerable populations, and contribute to the progression and improvement of Louisiana's health care rankings.

B. As part of carrying out the duties provided for in Subsection A of this Section, the Louisiana Department of Health shall make available to health care professionals the best practices and protocols for treating communities with underlying medical conditions and health disparities by doing all of the following:

1 **(1) Examining opportunities which provide greater access to high**
2 **quality medical care and improve health outcomes.**

3 **(2) Performing a comprehensive evidenced-based analysis of the**
4 **determinants of health equity that influence racial health disparities.**

5 **(3) Performing a comprehensive evidenced-based analysis of**
6 **interventions that positively impact health equity and address disparities.**

7 **(4) Performing a comprehensive examination of the population**
8 **dynamics that are indicative of health equity and disparities.**

9 **(5) Promoting health awareness educational media campaigns.**

10 **C. To assist in carrying out its duties pursuant to this Section, the**
11 **Louisiana Department of Health may analyze any other relevant data which will**
12 **add to the work of the department, seek input from any interested parties**
13 **including but not limited to licensed health care professionals, advocates, and**
14 **concerned citizens, pursue any relevant topics including policies and laws that**
15 **impact health disparities, and promote community outreach and extension**
16 **activities.**

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Brandi Cannon.

DIGEST

SB 133 Original

2021 Regular Session

Barrow

Proposed law provides that the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), in addition to the other powers and duties conferred upon it by law, shall serve as a foundation and resource for addressing health care disparities in vulnerable populations, and contribute to the progression and improvement of Louisiana's health care rankings.

Proposed law provides that LDH shall make available to health care professionals the best practices and protocols for treating communities with underlying medical conditions and health disparities by doing certain enumerated tasks.

Proposed law provides that LDH may analyze any other relevant data which will add to the work of the department, seek input from any interested parties including but not limited to licensed health care professionals, advocates, and concerned citizens, pursue any relevant topics including policies and laws that impact health disparities, and promote community outreach and extension activities.

Effective August 1, 2021.

(Adds R.S. 40:1263)