This office shall (1) Educate and advocate for women's health with an emphasis on preventive health and healthy lifestyles. (2) Identify, and establish priorities for programs, services, and resources for women's health issues and concerns. (3) Serve as a clearinghouse and resource regarding women's health data, strategies, services, and programs that address women's health issues. (4) Collect and analyze relevant information and data resulting from research conducted or compiled by LDH and any collaborative entities. (5) Develop and recommend funding and program activities for educating the public on women's health initiatives relating to social determinants of health. (6) Make recommendations to the secretary of LDH concerning programs that address women's health issues for inclusion in the department's budget and strategic planning, (7) Seek funding from private or other governmental entities to carryout the purposes provided in proposed law. (8) Prepare for publication and dissemination of public materials regarding women's health. (9) Conduct public educational forums to raise awareness and educate citizens about women's health programs, issues, and services. (10) Coordinate the activities and programs of the office with other entities that focus on women's health or women's issues. (11) Provide an annual report to the governor and the legislature, concerning priorities and services needed for women's health in this state and areas for improvement.

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law may result in an increase in SGF of at least $1.1M annually. Proposed law creates the office on women's health (OWH) to serve as a centralized point of women's health advocacy and to coordinate efforts with existing programs, services, and initiatives across the Louisiana Department of Health and other agencies that serve women.

While proposed legislation only explicitly calls for the position of a Deputy Secretary to be created, the Deputy Secretary would possess hiring authority to employ staff as needed to achieve the intents of proposed legislation. In further discussions with LDH, it is assumed 5 program managers at a salary and related benefits cost of $123,600/yr each would be necessary to meet estimated workload demand in addition to the deputy secretary, whose salaries and related benefits are equal to $230,000/year. Total personnel costs are assumed then to be $848,300/yr, and operational costs based off previous estimates provided by LDH on the creation of OWH would equal $252,000, for a total of $1.1 M/yr.

SEE EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.
CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

For informational purposes, LDH estimated in 2021 staffing requirements necessary to operate an effective OWH would incorporate 10 new T.O. positions in addition to a Deputy Secretary; 8 Program Managers to serve as liaisons for OWH to coordinate research, analysis and policy management activities related to statewide health or social service programs; a Contract Grant Reviewer who will research potential grants and state appropriation budgets to attempt to expand available funds to support services to women and to develop and monitor contracts, applications and sub-recipient grant agreements; and an unspecified assistant. Proposed law authorizes the office to enter into agreements or contracts with any person or government agency as necessary or convenient to carry out its functions. LDH estimated total personnel costs to be $907,150 in annual salaries and $453,575 in related benefits for a total of $1,360,725. Further costs estimated by LDH include $225,502 in Operating Expenses, $200,000 in Professional Services, $16,346 in Equipment and $20,000 in Other Charges for a total state expenditure of $1,822,573.

(1) Assistant Secretary - annual salary of $150,000 + $75,000 (related benefits) = $225,000
(8) Program Manager - annual salary of $659,520 + $329,760 (related benefits) = $989,280
(1) Unspecified Assistant - annual salary of $38,850 + $19,425 (related benefits) = $58,275
(1) Contract Grant Reviewer - annual salary of $58,780 + $29,390 (related benefits) = $88,170

The Legislative Fiscal Office cannot corroborate the workload necessity detailed by LDH. To the degree that staffing levels are greater or less than that estimated by LDH, costs would change proportionally.

Note: Intended duties of OWH currently occur in several offices across state government, notably the Governor’s Office of Women’s Policy whose scope of duties include the advocacy of women’s health policy and serving as a connector between public and private women’s health agencies and educational institutions. As of June 2021, this office was staffed by 1 T.O. at an approximate annual salary of $88,400 and approximated related benefits of $44,200 for a total of $132,600.